

Reagan defends wife

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan on Wednesday angrily denied his wife Nancy was a "dragon lady" who was ruling the country. He said reports calling his wife the dragon lady of the White House had touched a nerve. "I think this is being bandied by the press. That is fiction and I think it is despicable fiction. And a lot of people ought to be... of themselves," he said in a spirited defence of his wife. "The idea that she is involved in governmental decisions and so forth... and being a kind of a dragon lady, there is nothing to that. No one who knows her well would ever believe it." Mr. Reagan, 76, was asked about the role of his wife, 10 years his junior, at a photo session with William Webster, his nominee as the new director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Mr. Reagan's new White House chief of staff, Howard Baker, was also present. The president's strong defence of his wife came as the couple celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary.

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Saudi king to visit Algeria

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Arabia's King Fahd will pay a three-day visit to Algeria next week, an official source said Wednesday. King Fahd and Algerian President Chadli Benjedid will concentrate in their talks on means of reunifying Arab ranks to pave the way for a long-delayed pan-Arab summit conference, said the source. The two leaders will also discuss Arab efforts to mediate a peaceful settlement to the Iran-Iraq war, now in its seventh year, the source said. Saudi Arabia and Algeria are prominent members of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) which held a summit meeting in Kuwait in January and of the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries. The Saudi monarch is scheduled to start a state visit to Britain on March 24 at the invitation of Queen Elizabeth II.

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Governors sworn in

AMMAN (Petra) — Three new governors were sworn in Wednesday before His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, at the Royal Court. The three were Aref Ershied of Tafila, Akram Al Naser of Irbid and Mohammad Al Udwan, who was appointed governor of the Interior Ministry. The swearing-in ceremony was attended by Interior Minister Rajai Dajani.

New look for policemen

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian police force will soon have new uniforms for its members, and the change will take effect as of May 1, 1987, according to a decision taken by the Public Security Department (PSD). A statement issued by the PSD said that the following specifications will be observed in the new uniforms: Policemen will wear black berets but police officers will wear dark blue caps; both will wear half sleeve light blue shirts and dark blue trousers held by blue linen belts; and metal epaulettes will be worn by police officers on the shoulders. Badia police and border police forces have been excluded from the new measures.

Meeting reviews exports to Egypt

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Commercial Centres Corporation (JCCC) Director General Ghazi Diab met Wednesday with producers of Jordanian goods exported to Egypt under a trade protocol signed between the two countries. Mr. Diab stressed the corporation's keenness on extending every help and assistance to Jordanian exporters to Egyptian and other markets as well. He also called on industrialists to move effectively inside Egyptian markets to implement the quota allocated for Jordanian goods under the protocol.

Omani minister to visit Jordan

MUSCAT (Petra) — Omani Minister of Industry and Trade Salem Al Ghazali Wednesday announced that he will visit Jordan in the first two weeks of April for talks on promoting Jordanian Omani trade and economic cooperation. He said that Omani-Jordanian joint economic committee will meet in Amman in implementation of an agreement signed by the two sides in Muscat last month and approved by the Omani government 10 days ago. During the forthcoming talks in Amman, the committee will discuss the prospects of setting up an Omani industrial exhibition in the Jordanian capital, the minister said.

Explosives ship towed to shore

LONDON (R) — A Danish ship loaded with 400 tonnes of high explosives was being towed towards the southern British coast on Wednesday after drifting abandoned in the channel's busy shipping lanes overnight, a coast-guard spokesman said. He said the 1,000-tonne Hornstrand was being towed by a Dutch tug to Falmouth bay in southwestern England and was expected to arrive there by late Wednesday. The ship was abandoned after a fire broke out on board. French and British warships guarded the ship as it drifted in high winds to within 12 miles of the English coast.

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King meets Waldheim, invites him to Jordan

Jordanian and Austrian leaders review Mideast peace efforts and bilateral relations

VIENNA (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday invited Austrian President Kurt Waldheim to visit Jordan and Dr. Waldheim accepted the invitation.

A presidential spokesman said the King extended the invitation during a meeting with Dr. Waldheim, and the visit would take place later this year. The date for the visit will be agreed upon through diplomatic channels, the spokesman said. The visit will be Dr. Waldheim's first official trip abroad after taking office in July 1986. The King also discussed with Dr. Waldheim issues related to the Middle East conflict and international issues of mutual concern as well as bilateral relations, news agencies reported.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and senior Austrian officials. During the meeting, the King emphasised the role of European countries in efforts towards settling the Middle East conflict and restoring peace and stability to the region, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported. The King briefed Dr. Waldheim on Jordan's efforts towards convening an international conference attended by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and all parties involved in the conflict, Petra said.

The King and Dr. Waldheim discussed the situation in the Middle East and the threats posed to the region's security by the continuing Iran-Iraq war. The two leaders agreed that the war posed major dangers not only to the region but also to world peace and stability, Petra said.

On Lebanon, the King expressed hope that the latest developments there would pave the way for reaching a new formula for coexistence among all factions in the strife-torn country.

Dr. Waldheim praised Jordanian-Austrian relations and expressed his country's appreciation for the King's keenness to promote bilateral relations, Petra said. The Austrian president described the endorsement by the European Community (EC) of the idea of convening an international conference on the Middle East as the result of the King's efforts and reaffirmed his country's support for the conference proposal.

The two leaders also reviewed bilateral relations and agreed that an Austrian team would visit Amman soon to discuss means to further strengthen trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

Following his meeting with Dr. Waldheim, the King met at his residence with Austrian Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister Alois Mock. Later, the King and Her Majesty Queen Noor were the guests of honour at a dinner hosted by Dr. Waldheim.

King Hussein was the first foreign head of state to meet Dr. Waldheim after the former United Nations secretary-general's election as Austrian president. Dr. Waldheim, 68, who was U.N. secretary-general from 1972 to 1982, was elected despite an international storm over allegations that he tried to cover-up his service with the German army during its World War II Balkans campaign.

Dr. Waldheim said in an interview late last year he did not intend to travel abroad during his first year in office. On Thursday, the King will travel to Bonn for a meeting with Chancellor Helmut Kohl for talks that will centre on proposals for an international Middle East peace conference.

Bonn officials said Dr. Kohl and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher hoped to discuss with King Hussein prospects for such a peace conference.

The Bonn government has repeatedly urged that an international peace conference on the Middle East be held under the auspices of the United Nations.

Gemayel studying reform plan

BEIRUT (AP) — President Amin Gemayel is sending a team to Syria to respond to demands by Muslim leaders for political reforms to end the civil war, a spokesman said Wednesday.

Mr. Gemayel's reply is to be worked out in a series of meetings with his advisers before they leave for Damascus on Thursday, said the government spokesman, who refused to be identified further.

The three-man team is made up of Mr. Gemayel's political, military and legal advisers. The president's Sunni Muslim emissary Hani Salam informed the presidential office Tuesday of the reform demands upon his return from Damascus, where Lebanon's five senior Muslim leaders agreed on the proposals over the weekend, according to the spokesman.

The proposals were not announced but Lebanese news media reported that they centred on three constitutional amendments.

These would strip the Maronite Catholic president of the power to veto cabinet decisions and name the Sunni Muslim prime minister. They also would extend the Shiite Muslim house speaker's term to four years, or the life of one parliament.

Syria, at the request of the five Muslim leaders, sent 7,500 troops and 100 tanks to west Beirut on Feb. 22 to quell week-long factional clashes that killed 300 people, wounded 1,300 and wrecked \$200 million worth of damage.

Prime Minister Rashid Karami, one of the leaders who requested Syria's military intervention, Tuesday urged embassies to reopen in west Beirut and vowed they would be protected.

"We shall be responsible for their security and that of their institutions," said Mr. Karami, who also doubles as the supervisor of Syria's peace-enforcing operation in west Beirut.

Mr. Karami said the reforms Muslim leaders want are "very close to the president's ideas." The "Lebanese Forces," the nation's largest Christian militia, countered the proposals by calling for an "interim political agreement" between the warring Lebanese factions.

Such an interim agreement would "give fresh growth to the economy and provide security for the Lebanese," said "Lebanese Forces" chairman Samir Geagea.

Dr. Geagea said he was in close touch with Mr. Gemayel and would not tolerate diminution of presidential prerogatives or reform of the Lebanese army. Mr. Gemayel has pursued an indirect dialogue with Damascus for several months in a bid to mend a rift with Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad over the Lebanese leader's part in blocking a Syrian-backed peace plan 14 months ago.

Carter due here on March 24

AMMAN (J.T.) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter is scheduled to arrive here on March 24 on a 36-hour private visit to Jordan, informed sources said. The sources said Mr. Carter, who served as president during 1977-1981, would also visit Egypt and Israel on his forthcoming trip to the Middle East and that there was no confirmation of his plans to visit Syria.

In Washington, a State Department spokeswoman said Tuesday that Mr. Carter had informed the department that he planned to visit a number of Middle East countries and was considering a stop in Syria.

However, spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley suggested that the department would frown on Mr. Carter's visit to Syria. Asked if Mr. Carter were requested by the department not to stop in Syria, Oakley replied: "President Carter is a private citizen. He makes his own decisions. We are confident that he is aware of our policy toward Syria."

"Our relations with Syria have remained unchanged since Nov. 14 when the White House announced a number of steps limiting our economic and political ties to Syria due to Syrian ties to terrorism," she said.

Lebanese army takes over vital Beirut-Sidon highway

JIBEH, Lebanon (Agencies) — Lebanese army troops deployed on Wednesday on the strategic coast road linking Beirut with Sidon in the south as part of a Syrian-backed crackdown on militias.

Armoured soldiers with rifles, machineguns and grenade launchers patrolled a 25-kilometre stretch of road from the Syrian-held Khaldah junction just south of Beirut to the Awali River on Sidon's northern outskirts, witnesses told Reuters.

Backed by five French-made armoured troop carriers and five U.S.-supplied tanks, they hoisted Lebanese flags over three checkpoints as leftist militiamen withdrew.

At the village of Jibeh, fighters packed mattresses and belongings into a truck before heading into nearby hills with their anti-aircraft guns. "Residents should move freely without harassment from militias, who will not exist any more on this road," an army lieutenant told Reuters midway down the road at Damour.

Civilian traffic was heavy and drivers charmed with soldiers as they searched vehicles.

Syrian and Lebanese military sources described the army move as transitional and said the 600 troops spread along the highway would be reinforced by an undisclosed number of Syrian military observers at a later date.

After 7,000 Syrian troops deployed in west Beirut on Feb. 22, Israel said it had no plans to intervene in Lebanon, but was closely following Syrian military moves.

There were no immediate plans for Lebanese troops to challenge Sidon's Sunni Muslim militiamen or Palestinian fighters in the sprawling Al Hilweh refugee camp nearby, reports said.

Meanwhile, a spokeswoman for the Italian embassy said the diplomatic mission has "technically" resumed operations in west Beirut.

Ambassador Antonio Mancini, who still lives in east Beirut, has been crossing the five-kilometre dividing green line for work at his embassy office in the capital's western sector since Tuesday, she said.

In a statement broadcast by local radio stations on Tuesday, Prime Minister Rashid Karami called on foreign embassies in west Beirut to reopen.

"We shall be responsible for providing security for them, their institutes and everything related to them," he said.

Apart from the Greek embassy, all Western diplomatic missions and most of the foreign community have fled chaos-ridden west Beirut.

Jordan obtains \$150m syndicated bank loan

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government will sign a seven-year, \$150 million syndicated loan agreement on Saturday with the Arab Bank along with 19 other participating international banks, a spokesman for the Arab Bank said Wednesday.

The Australia and New Zealand Banking Group of London will act as the currency agent for the dual currency loan, he said. The loan's interest rate payable to the banks is based on Libor (London inter-bank offered rate), plus 3/4 of one per cent for the first 3 1/2 years and 3/4 of one per cent thereafter. The banks

offered the government a 3 1/2-year grace period from the date of signing the agreement.

Arranged by the Arab Bank, the loan is meant to be used for financing development projects in the Kingdom as part of the 1986-1990 five-year development plan. The loan is payable in U.S. dollars with the deutschmark as an alternate currency.

Compared to the government's previous borrowing of \$250 million in July 1985, the new loan is costing the Kingdom less in terms of interest, according to Dr. Makram Rahal, executive vice-president of the Arab Bank, Bahrain. The previous eight-year loan was at 1/2 per cent over Libor for the first four years, and 3/4 per cent thereafter.

Economists believe the loan was sought to cover the deficit in government funds for the development plan caused by the shortage in Arab aid. Last year, Jordan received less than half of the funds budgeted in accordance with the 1978 Arab summit resolutions. Only Saudi Arabia fully honoured its financial commitment to the Kingdom.

The loan terms are seen by bankers as generous, reflecting Jordan's credit-worthiness and its good standing in the international banking world.

The loan's lead managers are the Arab Bank, the Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait, the Al UBAF Banking Group, the Arab Banking

Corporation, the Burgan Bank S.A.K., the Gulf International Bank B.S.C., Manufacturers Hanover Limited and Standard Chartered Bank. Co-leading are Credit Lyonnais, Banque Nationale de Paris, Banque Indosuez/Al Bank, Al Saudi Al Fransi, and Grindlays International Bank. Managers are the Saudi International Bank; Co-managers are the Arab Jordan Investment Bank; the National Bank of Abu Dhabi and Societe Generale. Participants are Credit Industriel et Commercial de Paris; Banque de L'Union Europeenne; Banque Internationale pour L'Afrique Occidentale and the Kuwaiti-French Bank.

U.S. presents formal draft of missile treaty

GENEVA (AP) — U.S. negotiators at the Geneva arms talks on Wednesday formally presented a detailed draft treaty on eliminating medium-range missiles in Europe.

The chief U.S. negotiator on medium-range missiles, Maynard Giltman, described the document as "full treaty text."

He said the proposal was complete except for one aspect of verification which was still being discussed with the NATO allies.

Mr. Giltman said the draft reflected agreements made at last October's superpower summit in Reykjavik. The two sides agreed in Iceland to eliminate their medium-range missiles in Europe, with each country allowed to maintain 100 warheads on its own territory, with the Soviet missiles in Asia.

Mr. Giltman said the United States would be willing to eliminate those 100 warheads as well if the Soviets would agree. But he stressed that that proposal was not included in the draft treaty.

Mr. Giltman said the U.S. delegation had been working on the treaty "for some time." Mr. Giltman said negotiations would continue beyond Monday on medium-range missiles, but that he did not know whether the other two negotiating groups would continue. The talks had been scheduled to end Wednesday.

On Tuesday, U.S. President Ronald Reagan said the draft treaty would "follow the specific formula" which he and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev agreed upon at their October summit in Iceland.

At a press briefing in Washington, Mr. Reagan said the U.S. would call for both sides to remove their longer-range medium-range missiles from Europe, and for each side to retain 100 warheads on its own territory. This would apply to U.S. Pershing 2 and cruise missiles deployed in Western Europe, and to Soviet SS-20s deployed in the East.

Mr. Reagan said the U.S. proposal would also call for constraints on shorter-range missiles in Europe and for effective anti-cheating provisions.

Mr. Reagan also said the U.S. negotiators would fly home at the end of the week to confer with him after presenting the draft treaty.

Armacost to visit Moscow this month

U.S. Under-Secretary of State Michael Armacost will visit the Soviet Union later this month for talks with high-level officials.

State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said Tuesday that while the March 16 to 17 meetings would focus on regional issues, the outcome could have a bearing on prospects for a later visit by Secretary of State George Shultz to discuss arms control.

Iraq says Iranians repelled in south; Tehran reports Haj Omran attack

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq said Wednesday its Third Army Corps defending the southern port of Basra repulsed a series of Iranian attacks east of the city during the previous 48 hours.

"The Third Army Corps inflicted a huge number of casualties over the past 48 hours when it repelled a number of enemy attacks east of Basra," the Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted field commanders as saying.

The commander of Iraq's "Saladdin Forces" said a strip of land covering three square kilometres had been turned into a graveyard for the Iranians.

The commander said attacking Iranian tanks had been forced to drive over piles of Iranian corpses before being destroyed in their turn in no-man's land.

Iraq announced last Wednesday it had launched a new offensive against Iraq in the rugged

Kurdish mountains of the northern front.

At the same time, it claimed its forces had captured a string of fortifications east of Basra in fierce fighting on the southern front.

Tehran Radio reported the new offensive in the Haj Omran area in an unscheduled announcement which said the attacking troops had achieved "considerable victories."

The Iranian news agency IRNA said the attacking force had seized fortified Iraqi mountain positions in the assault launched Tuesday night and fighting continued — some of it hand-to-hand combat — amid snow-capped peaks in the area.

The agency gave no further details, and Iraq made no immediate comment on the claim. Haj Omran is in the rugged mountains of Iraqi Kurdistan

northeast of Baghdad. It overlooks strategic mountain passes that lead to Iraq's oilfields in Kirkuk and Sulaymaniyeh provinces.

The Iranian forces have occupied and been displaced from a number of strategic heights in the area since a cross-border offensive in the summer of 1983.

In the south, the Iranian agency said the Iranian forces killed or wounded 2,500 Iraqi troops on the eastern bank of the artificial Fish Lake east of Basra late Tuesday and early Wednesday, while on western bank they advanced north and captured "crescent-shaped fortifications," designed to defend Basra.

The Iraqi News Agency said however that on the Basra front the Iranians "fell in a trap prepared for them by the Iraqi Army Third Corps."

Reagan seeks political comeback after naming Webster to head CIA

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Ronald Reagan, trying to stage a political comeback from the Iran-contra scandal, was to give one of the most important speeches of his career on Wednesday after nominating FBI Director William Webster to head the CIA.

Mr. Reagan's televised address at 9 p.m. EST (0200 GMT) follows a devastating presidential commission report last week that blamed the scandal partly on what it called his inattention and ignorance of what his aides were doing.

As he struggled to reassert his leadership and counter criticism that he is a "hands off" president, Mr. Reagan personally announced new arms control moves with the Soviet Union on Tuesday and met National Security Staff (NSC) members to lay down strict rules of operation.

Nominating Mr. Webster, he chose a man virtually untainted by the Iran scandal and at the same time acted to fill a key vacancy in an administration weakened by the Iran affair.

Mr. Reagan's action removed a nagging worry as he prepared for a speech that his new chief of staff, Howard Baker, said would

"have a profound effect on the country's perception of the role of the president and his future ability to govern."

Mr. Baker would not say whether Mr. Reagan would take the advice of friends and advisers and apologise for his Iran policy.

Administration officials said Mr. Reagan planned to acknowledge in the speech that he needed to change his ways.

"It will be a forward-looking speech in which he will say he accepts the need for change," said an official who asked not to be identified. "I think the president wants to give his side of the story."

The official said Mr. Reagan would tell the public what he is doing to set things right following last week's scorching Tower Commission report on the origins of the scandal.

The White House announced Mr. Webster's nomination Tuesday night amid a flurry of activities that seemed designed to signal the start of a new, more active phase of the Reagan presidency.

An example was Mr. Reagan's withdrawal on Monday of his nomination of Deputy CIA Director Robert Gates to be CIA director. The nomination ran into

trouble in the Senate because of the CIA's role in the Iran scandal.

Mr. Webster, a former federal appeals court judge who turns 63 on Friday, was named to head the FBI in 1978 by President Jimmy Carter and seemed certain to win Senate confirmation for the CIA position.

Earlier on Tuesday Mr. Reagan met about 50 NSC staff members and laid down strict guidelines designed to prevent future scandals like the Iran affair.

Spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Mr. Reagan told them that in formulating policy, "legal issues must be addressed head-on and the rule of law respected. And of course, recommendations and decisions must be properly documented."

Former White House spokesman Larry Speakes acknowledged Wednesday that he and Mr. Reagan misled the American people last November about U.S. arms sales to Iran.

He blamed three former administration aides for providing incorrect information.

Webster backs overseas kidnapping of gunmen; Pointdexter demoted, page 8

Socialists say no to Andreotti premiership

ROME (AP) — The Socialist Party on Wednesday indicated it would not support Christian Democrat Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti as a replacement for Premier Bettino Craxi.

Mr. Andreotti, a five-time former premier, has been described by leaders of the dominant Christian Democrats as the party's only choice to lead a new coalition.

No party has a majority in Italy and if political negotiations among the centrist parties fail to produce an agreement, President Francesco Cossiga may have to call general elections this spring, a year ahead of schedule.

Mr. Craxi resigned Tuesday saying a deep split in his five-party coalition had become "stifling and harmful for everyone."

Turkish planes attack Kurdish bases in Iraq

ANKARA (R) — Turkish warplanes screamed into Iraq Wednesday to hit back at Kurdish rebels who killed 14 civilians last month, the government said.

Minister of State Hasan Celal Guzel told reporters the targets were camps at three sites determined to be those of guerrillas who staged the massacre at the south eastern village of Tasdelen on Feb. 22.

Insurgents posing as soldiers hit the village five kilometres from the border, attacking the homes of three local watchmen with machineguns and hand grenades and killing five men and nine women and children.

Mr. Guzel said the 30-minute air raid was carried out under an agreement with the Iraqi government for hot pursuit of rebels by Turkish forces.

He said 30 planes which staged the operation "with success" bombed camps, hideouts and storehouses in the Sirat, Era and Alami areas.

There was no official word on casualties, but Hürriyet News Agency reported from the area that at least 100 rebels were killed and hundreds wounded.

The semi-official Anatolian News Agency said Wednesday search operations after the Feb. 22 killings had been foiled by

cause the perpetrators took refuge in Iraq. Wednesday's raid had been delayed while the military waited for good weather.

Mr. Guzel denied persistent Turkish press reports that land forces had already punched into Iraq across the rugged, mountainous border area but Anatolian News Agency said Wednesday preparations were being made for such an incursion.

Commando units from several parts of the country were on standby in the area and planes were held ready at Batman and Diyarbakir airfields, it said. Press photographs Wednesday showed military convoys on the move in the area and troops being transported in the back of civilian trucks.

Mr. Guzel said he could not say how far into Iraq the planes flew but Anatolian Agency said the bombing was visible from villages on the Turkish side of the border.

Press reports say 134 members of the security forces have been killed since August 1984, when the rebels started their latest campaign in pursuit of autonomy for Turkey's estimated eight million

Kurds.

The rebels have lost 242 of their number, while 211 civilians have also died, including vigilantes and villagers guiding troops to hideouts.

Wednesday's incursion was the third into Iraq which Turkey has acknowledged. In May 1983, ground forces crossed the border in search of rebels and last August hideouts said to have been used by the guerrillas were bombed by 10 F4 Phantom jets of the Turkish Air Force.

Last year's air raid sparked a row between Turkey and Iran, sensitive because of its 6½-year-old war with Iraq.

Tehran has allies among Iraqi Kurdish rebels who in turn cooperate with the main Turkish group, the underground Kurdish Workers' Party, and use the same camps.

Asked whether he expected renewed problems with Iran, Mr. Guzel said Wednesday: "There should not be because... this is nothing to do with the war in the region whatsoever and nothing to do with Iranian territory... we think it will not create problems."

The government said it believed 200 people were killed in last August's raid but has never given details of its intelligence or released aerial pictures.

Egypt seeks to avert Libyan anger over defections

CAIRO (R) — Egypt, seeking to avert possible Libyan anger, has said it had no intention of aggravating international tension when it allowed a Libyan Air Force plane to land in Egypt on Tuesday.

A government statement issued Tuesday night said the C-130 military transport plane was allowed to land at the remote southern airport of Abu Simbel only after its five-man crew said they were low on fuel.

The crew later requested asylum in Egypt.

"The authorities responded to the five officers' persistent request only on humane grounds," the statement said.

The request by the five defectors, a lieutenant-colonel, a first lieutenant and three non-commissioned officers, was being considered, the statement added.

"Egypt, which respects its international obligations does not seek to escalate differences with its neighbours or create reasons to aggravate tension in the international sphere," it said.

The statement did not say whether the government intended to return the plane to Libya.

U.S. will have no contact with Israeli officer indicted in spy case

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The U.S. government has issued a "no contact" order, barring American officers and other officials from meeting with an Israeli air force officer indicted on charges of espionage, Israeli and other sources said Wednesday.

Israel's government was advised of the order in a letter delivered recently by Arthur Huges, the U.S. embassy's deputy chief of mission, said Israeli sources who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The letter was delivered shortly before the promotion of Aviem Sella, who was indicted Tuesday on espionage charges, the sources said. He recruited U.S. navy analyst Jonathan Jay Pollard to spy for Israel.

Col. Sella, 41, who was identified in a U.S. indictment as a brigadier general, was named to a top air force post on Sunday, reportedly an air force base in the Negev Desert.

Sources who are in a position to know said visiting U.S. delegations and U.S. officers had not visited the base as a result of close U.S.-Israeli cooperation, but this would not be possible in the future.

They expressed concern the ban could lead to friction and cause a deterioration in U.S.-Israeli relations.

U.S. officials were described as being upset over the timing of Col. Sella's promotion to base commander just before Pollard's sentencing. They criticised it as contrary to an Israeli pledge made after Pollard's 1985 arrest that Israel would take action against those who participated in spying against Israel.

Also rewarded was Rafi Eitan, the head of the unit that handled Pollard, who was appointed to head the state-owned Israel Chemical Co.

Eitan, a close associate of Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon, was a master spy for the Mossad intelligence agency and helped capture the Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann.

Israeli officials declined to comment on Col. Sella's indictment or the expected sentencing later Wednesday of Pollard, 32, who pleaded guilty to espionage charges and faces a maximum life term for passing on secrets to Israel.

The secrets, according to a report published in the Jerusalem Post recently, included information that helped Israel's avoid detection when they flew over the Mediterranean to bomb the headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation in Oct. 1, 1985.

A foreign Ministry spokesman who declined to be identified said no comment would be made before Pollard's sentencing and said he had no information about Col. Sella.

Col. Sella cannot be extradited because espionage is not covered by treaty commitments between Israel and the United States.

The espionage case has stirred growing controversy here.

In an editorial Wednesday, the tabloid Hadashot newspaper predicted Israel's image as a strategic ally would be weakened in the eyes of U.S. public opinion.

"How can we explain the spy episode to American congressmen... Will we repeat the explanation that we ourselves

doubt, that it was not a state operation but the isolated initiative of private individuals?" the newspaper said.

"If that's the version, then how can we come and slap the American administration in the face by making an unfortunate decision to promote Pollard's handler Aviem Sella at such a bad time, on the eve of (Pollard's) sentencing?"

Elihu Ben Elissar, a leading member of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud Bloc, criticised U.S. officials for indicting Col. Sella despite an "understanding" that the affair should be buried.

Another Likud legislator, Ehud Olmert, said he was surprised by the indictment and termed it regrettable.

He said Israel's government was not involved in authorising the espionage, did not sponsor or approve it, and fired those involved from government service.

State Department deputy spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley Tuesday reiterated that the United States expects the government of Israel to "stand by" the undertakings it gave last summer when the espionage case of Jonathan Pollard came to light.

"As we said yesterday, at the time Pollard's espionage was discovered, the government of Israel stated that it would take steps to prevent a recurrence of such unauthorized activities and that any Israeli involved would be called to account. We expect the government of Israel to stand by these undertakings," Ms. Oakley declared.

U.S. will not divert \$30m from Israeli aid to occupied territories

TEL AVIV — The Reagan administration has reportedly bowed to Israeli objections and shelved a proposal to "borrow" \$30 million in aid money earmarked for Israel and divert it for the benefit of Palestinians on the occupied West Bank of the Jordan River.

The money, which is equal to 1 per cent of the \$3 billion in total U.S. military and civilian grants to Israel this year, was to have been contributed to Jordan's five-year development plan for the West Bank and Gaza which is aimed at shoring up the sagging economy of the occupied territories.

Promoters of the plan had hoped Israel might agree to it because of its public support for improving the quality of life for West Bank Palestinians.

The proposal originated in the U.S. State Department's Near East bureau and had wide support, informed sources told the Times. Richard Murphy, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, is said to have been a particularly strong advocate.

The proposal reportedly reached the desk of Secretary of State George Shultz, who is said to have ordered that the Israeli be sounded out.

The plan envisioned the return by Israel of \$30 million from the \$1.2 billion in civilian aid it has received for the current year.

The plan was to divert the money to the Jordan Development Fund and later to seek a supplemental grant from Congress to restore the money for Israel. The Los Angeles Times

Canadian police probe Lebanon hostage connection

OTTAWA (R) — Police are investigating an alleged connection between a Canadian and kidnapped U.S. hostages in Lebanon which may result in criminal charges, Justice Minister Ray Hnatyshyn has said.

Mr. Hnatyshyn told reporters the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) was pursuing an inquiry "concerning hostages in Lebanon."

He added: "I don't think I can make any further comment because of the fact that charges may well be laid."

The case is believed to involve Peter Kilbom, a librarian at the American University in Beirut who was abducted in December 1984 and killed after the U.S. bombing of Libya last April 15.

The New York Times reported

this week that the Reagan administration put together in early 1986 a complex operation to rescue a U.S. hostage and also effect the arrest of a Canadian who was serving as the kidnappers' representative.

The newspaper quoted unnamed administration officials as saying the rescue plan began in 1985 after an unidentified Canadian citizen of Armenian extraction made contact with the U.S. government, asserting that he represented the kidnappers.

"This is a criminal investigation," Mr. Hnatyshyn said. "We are carrying out our responsibility in terms of the law of Canada and investigating certain alleged activities within our country."

Family struggles to fund Demjanjuk's defence

CLEVELAND, Ohio (AP) — A defence fund created for John Demjanjuk, the former Ohio autoworker on trial in Israel on war crimes charges, is nearly empty, his son-in-law has said.

"Right now, we are in a grave situation, I can tell you that," Ed Nishnic said. "It is very serious. Our finances are about tapped out, period. That is the main reason why this entire family isn't over in Israel."

Demjanjuk, 66, is accused of being the Treblinka camp guard known as "Ivan the Terrible." He contends he is a victim of mistaken identity and never was at Treblinka.

Demjanjuk's son, John Jr., is with him in Israel, due to the generosity of a family friend,

Nishnic said. Demjanjuk's wife, Vera, remains in Cleveland as do Nishnic and Demjanjuk's daughter, Irene. Another daughter, Lydia, lives in Pennsylvania.

Nishnic plans to embark Saturday on another fund-raising trip that will start in Toronto, Canada. He said he hopes the entire family can be in Israel in about a month.

Nishnic works full-time for Demjanjuk's defence, trying to raise funds and assisting in research.

Meanwhile a white-haired, 85-year-old Treblinka camp survivor identified John Demjanjuk as the "Ivan the Terrible" on the basis of two photographs, but he stumbled in recalling details of the Treblinka camp.

Israel to decide on Lavi plane soon

TEL AVIV (R) — The Defence Ministry would recommend to the government by the end of the month whether to accept a U.S. proposal to scrap Israel's costly Lavi warplane project.

Defence sources said Tuesday that Israel's general staff, under pressure from Washington, had proposed to Chief of Staff Moshe Levi that the prestige project be dropped on cost grounds in favour of buying U.S. F-16s instead.

"The defence establishment has not yet ended discussions regarding U.S. proposals on alternatives to the Lavi," a ministry statement said.

"These discussions will be completed during March and conclusions will be submitted to the cabinet for discussion and decision," it said.

U.S. Deputy Undersecretary of State Dov Zakheim said last week that Israel would risk being defeated in another Middle East war if it spent U.S. aid on the Lavi, Hebrew for lion.

Washington is paying the lion's share of the project, which has already cost the U.S. taxpayer \$1.3 billion.

The Pentagon has said each Lavi will cost \$22.1 million compared with Israel's \$14.5-million estimate.

Mr. Zakheim presented a series of alternatives to Israel in January, including two versions of the F-16 incorporating some of the ground-breaking Israeli cockpit computer systems.

Defence sources said the general staff study proposes replacing the Lavi with more General Dynamics F-16Cs, of which the first three of 75 were delivered to Israel last month.

The proposal reportedly reached the desk of Secretary of State George Shultz, who is said to have ordered that the Israeli be sounded out.

The plan envisioned the return by Israel of \$30 million from the \$1.2 billion in civilian aid it has received for the current year.

The plan was to divert the money to the Jordan Development Fund and later to seek a supplemental grant from Congress to restore the money for Israel. The Los Angeles Times

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	77111-19
PROGRAMME ONE	15:30 Koran 15:55 Programme Review 16:20 Tom Sawyer 16:40 Children's programmes 17:15 Paul Daniel Show 17:35 Local Health programme 18:00 Teaching French 18:30 Local contacts programme 19:30 News programme 19:50 Programme Review and videos 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Tomorrow's programmes 21:30 Varieties 22:30 Arabic film 23:00 News Summary in Arabic 23:10 Film continued
PROGRAMME TWO	17:30 Champs Elysees 19:00 News in French 19:15 La vallee des peupliers 19:30 News in Hebrew 19:45 World Sports 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Paul Daniel Show 21:10 Remington Steele 22:00 News in English 22:30 Feature Film: The Salamander Anthony Quinn, France Nero, Martin Balsam
RADIO JORDAN	855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 95.0 KHz, SW Tel: 77111-15
07:00	Light Music
07:30	Newsdesk
08:00	Morning Show
10:00	Morning Show Contd.
11:00	Pop Session
11:30	Hitsville: The story of Motown
12:00	News Summary
13:00	Pop Session
14:00	News Bulletin
14:10	Instrumental
14:30	Just a Minute
15:00	Concert Hour
16:00	News Summary
16:30	Instrumental
16:50	Old Favourites
17:00	The Musical in Review
17:30	Pop Session
18:00	News Summary
18:30	Special Feature
19:00	Musical
19:30	Newsdesk
19:50	Date with a Star
20:00	Evening Show

FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION	77111-19
PROGRAMME ONE	10:00 Koran 10:20 Programme Review 10:45 Cartoons and children programmes 11:00 Toy Box III 11:30 Friday's Prayer 12:30 Sport Magazine 14:00 Religious Seminar 14:30 Arabic Series 15:30 Variety programme 16:20 Jane Eyre 16:40 Arabic Series 18:00 Arabic Series 18:30 View's choice (Arabic) 19:30 News Programme 19:50 News in Arabic 20:00
PROGRAMME TWO	17:30 French film: Cinema 16 19:00 News in French 19:15 French Varieties 19:30 News in Hebrew 19:45 News in Arabic 20:30 Thelma (Comedy) 21:00 Weekly Preview 21:10 Falcon Crest 22:00 News in English 22:30 Paradise Postponed
RADIO JORDAN	855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 95.0 KHz, SW Tel: 77111-15
07:00	Light Music

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	EXHIBITIONS	FEATURE FILM	VIDEO	CULTURAL CENTRES	MUSEUMS
08:00 An art exhibition by Abdel Nasser Odeh at the Jordanian Cultural Centre, 21st Century, 19th Century oriental art, Murat, Jaber Lwadihich. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel: 60126.	08:00 An art exhibition depicting social life in Jordan and Egypt by Rashed Tumbali at the Petra Bank Gallery.	08:00 "Born Yesterday" at 7:00 p.m. Thursday at the American Centre.	08:00 "L'hologramme" at 4:00 p.m. Thursday at the French Cultural Centre.	08:00 Royal Cultural Centre... Tel. 6610267 American Cultural Centre... 641720 British Council... 6361478 French Cultural Centre... 637009 Goethe Institute... 641993 Soviet Cultural Centre... 644203 Spanish Cultural Centre... 624049 Turkish Cultural Centre... 639777 Hayat Arts Centre... 665195 Hussein Youth Club... 6671816 Y.W.C.A. ... 641793 Y.W.M.C.A. ... 664251 American Municipal Library ... 636111 Univ. of Jordan Library ... 843555	08:00 "Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Fridays. Refreshments, jewelry and costumes from over 1000 years old. Also models from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 631760.

FOR FRIDAY	BBC WORLD SERVICE
07:30 Newsdesk 08:00 Morning Show 08:30 News Summary 09:00 Morning Show Contd. 09:30 News Summary 10:00 Listeners' Choice 10:30 News Summary 11:00 Listeners' Choice 11:30 Country Music 12:00 News Summary 12:30 Country Music 13:00 News Summary 13:30 Country Music 14:00 News Bulletin 14:10 Jordan Weekly 14:30 Music 15:00 In Concert 15:30 News Summary 16:00 Old Favourites 16:30 In Concert 16:50 Newsdesk 17:00 News Summary 17:30 Top Twenty 18:00 Date with a Star 18:30 Mad City 19:00 French Way of Life	06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Country Style 06:45 Reflections 06:50 Financial News 07:00 World News 07:30 24 Hours 07:45 News Summary 07:50 The Music of Work 07:55 The World Today 08:00 08:05 Newsdesk 08:30 Meridian 08:30 World News 08:30 24 Hours: News Summary 08:45 Nashville Cats 09:45 Merchant Navy Programme 10:00 World News 10:05 Reflections 10:15 Loved by the Gods 10:30 Music News 11:00 World News 11:05 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Financial News: Look Ahead 11:45 Hotel du Lac

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06) 53202-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

09:00	Agaba (J)
09:20	Cairo (RJ)
09:25	Jeddah (J)
10:00	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:05	Doha, Abu Dhabi (J)
10:45	Dhahran, Kuwait (J)
10:50	Cairo, Agaba (J)
10:55	London (J)
11:05	New York, Vienna (RJ)
11:15	Athens (RJ)
11:20	Bucharest, Larnaca (RJ)
11:45	Rome (RJ)
11:50	Baghdad (J)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

11:45	Kuwait (LN)
12:30	Baghdad (IA)
12:30	Doha, Bahrain (GF)
13:05	Kuwait (KU)
13:30	Istanbul, Ankara (TK)
15:10	Riyadh (SV)
15:30	Amsterdam, Damascus (KLJ)
19:10	Frankfurt (LH)
19:35	Cairo (MS)
20:00	Zurich, Larnaca (J)
09:30	London (BA)

DEPARTURES

ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

06:45	Agaba (J)
06:50	Beirut (J)
10:45	Rome (RJ)
11:30	Cairo (RJ)
11:30	Larnaca, Athens (J)
12:00	Paris, London (RJ)
12:15	Brussels, Frankfurt (J)
19:30	Kuwait, Abu Dhabi (J)
19:30	Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (J)
21:00	Bahrain, Doha (J)
21:00	Jeddah (J)
21:00	Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (J)
21:00	Baghdad (J)
21:15	Cairo (RJ)
22:40	Dubai, Muscat (J)
22:40	Bangkok (J)

12:00 News Summary; Sing Gospel
12:15 Merchant Navy Programme
12:30 Business Matters 12:30 World News 12:30 News About Britain 12:35
In the Mezzanine 12:35 A Letter from Northern Ireland 12:30 Meridian 14:00
Radio Newsdesk 14:15 Jazz for the Aspiring 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00
World News 15:00 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 John Peel 16:00
Newsdesk 16:45 Nature Notebook 17:00 Radio Newsdesk 17:15
The European Community 18:00
World News 18:00 Commentary 18:15
Science in Action 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:00
A Letter from Northern Ireland 19:15 Puccini and his World 19:45 Sports
Round-up 20:00 Newsdesk 20:30 Music 21:00 News Summary; Out-look
21:30 Stockmarket Report 21:45 About Britain 22:00 World News 22:00
24 Hours: News Summary 22:30 Science in Action 23:00 News Summary;
Network UK 23:15 Music News 23:45

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

06:00	Damascus, Athens (OA)
06:00	Damascus, Paris (AF)
13:00	Tripoli (LN)
13:30	Baghdad (IA)
14:00	Bahrain, Doha (QE)
15:00	Kuwait (KU)
15:30	Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
16:00	Riyadh (SV)
16:00	Sana'a (LH)
16:20	Cairo (MS)

MONEY EXCHANGE

Wednesday rates

Local sell/buy rates in fms	
Belgian franc	89.2 / 90.0
Dutch guilder	163.6 / 165.0
French franc	55.7 / 56.0
Italian lira	26.5 / 26.6
Japanese yen (for 100)	220.4 / 222.0
Swedish crown	52.5 / 53.0
Swiss franc	219.4 / 220.0
U.K. sterling pound	528.3 / 534.0
U.S. dollar	338.3 / 340.0
W. German mark	184.6 / 186.0

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A frontal depression associated with cold air from centred west Cyprus will be approaching our area. So, a drop in temperature is expected, with scattered rain, and winds will be southerly fresh. In Amqala, it will be hazy and partly cloudy winds will be southerly fresh and rough sea.

	Min./Max.	Temp.
Amman	5	11
Agaba	10	11
Deserts	3	11
Jordan Valley	9	11

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 14, Agaba 22. Humidity readings: Amman 60 per cent, Agaba 30 per cent.

The Wind in the Willows 24:00 World News 24:00 The World Today 02:05 Letter from Northern Ireland 03:00 Financial News 04:00 Reflections 04:00 Sports Roundup 01:00 World News Commentary 01:15 From the Weeklies 01:30 Multitrack 3

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

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ARRIVALS

ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

09:00	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:00	Agaba (RJ)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES	GENERAL	NIGHT DUTY	TAXIS	HOSPITALS	MARKET PRICES
Amman governorate 891228 Amman Civil Defence 198 199 Civil Defence Libid 271293, 273131 Civil Defence Quesemeh 707033 Civil Defence Deir Alla 57306 Ambulance 195, 775111 Amman downtown fire brigade 198 First aid 630341 Blood Bank 778303 Civil Defence rescue 661111 Fire headquarters 622427 Police rescue 192, 621111, 637777 Police headquarters 639141 Traffic police 8963001 Electric Power Co. 636381/4, 624881 Municipal water contracts 771125/8 Queen Alia Int. Airport (06) 533000	Jordan Television 77311/19 Radio Jordan 77411/19 Ministry of Tourism 642311 Hotel complaints 699412 Price complaints 661176 Telephone information 12 122 Jordan and Middle East calls 10 Oman calls 773034 Repair service 11	AMMAN: Dr. Yehia Abdul Rahim 736072 Dr. Hani Haddadin 777751 Salim Pharmacy 636730 Neurology Pharmacy 723672 Khafaf pharmacy 778654 First pharmacy 668912 Salim pharmacy 668956 Al Fardous pharmacy 787336	Wahda taxi 641833 Khaloud taxi 664888 Bassam taxi 811857 Abi taxi 621127 Heyan taxi 817411 Baleenah taxi 669192 Bahrain taxi 773034 Mashhour taxi 896743	Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32 Khafaf Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6 Al-Khazim Maternity, J. Amn. 642412 Jabal Amman Maternity 642362 Malina, J. Amn. 636140 Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4 Shmeisani Hospital 669131 Municipal Hospital 843845 Al-Mushtak Hospital 672779 The Islamic, Abdali 666127/7 Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6 Islamic, Al-Mushtak 777101/3 Al-Badani, J. Amn. 891611/5 Army, Marja 66240/50 Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50 Amal Hospital 674155	Apples (All kinds) 310 / 270 Bananas 320 / 270 Bananas (Mukammal) 270 / 220 Beans 460 / 430 Broad beans 110 / 70 Butter 100 / 70 Cabbage 60 / 40 Carrot (black) 120 / 70 Carrot (yellow) 90 / 60 Cauliflower (yellow) 120 / 80 Cauliflower (white) 60 / 30 Cheese 400 / 300 Chicken 210 / 160 Eggplant (small) 130 / 90 Eggplant (large) 110 / 70

NEWS IN BRIEF

No fees for solar heaters

AMMAN (J.T.) — Informed government sources on Wednesday denied rumours that the government plans to impose a fee on the use of solar heaters. These rumours are baseless, the sources said. Fees can only be imposed on services offered to the public and since solar heaters do not fall in this category, there can be no imposition of fees of any kind, the sources said. They said the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources continues to encourage people to install solar heaters with the aim of reducing dependence on other forms of energy.

Committee to plan development of Jerash

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai has decided to form a committee to draw up a comprehensive plan to develop Jerash and to improve the city's services taking into consideration the city's historical and archaeological status. The committee groups representatives of the Ministries of Public Works, Planning and Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment as well as the Departments of Antiquities and Statistics in addition to the mayor of Jerash. The decision said that the committee's recommendations could be applied to Um Qais, Taqat Fahel and Wadi Musa.

Lawzi receives UNDP representative

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi on Wednesday received the resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Jordan Sarfraz Malik. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed fields of cooperation between Jordan and the UNDP as well as joint ventures, especially those related to social development.

Haj Hassan leaves for Baghdad today

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan leaves for Iraq today to take part in the meetings of the 15th session of the Arab Labour conference, which will open in Baghdad on Saturday. On the agenda of the six-day conference are a report by the Arab Labour Bureau director general on technology and development and a report on the activities of Arab Labour Organisation (ALO). Participants will also follow-up on the implementation of resolutions issued by earlier conferences and will discuss financial and administrative issues.

EC advisors tours campus

AMMAN (Petra) — University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Al Majali on Wednesday received European Community (EC) special advisor Christopher Audland who is currently on a visit to Jordan. They reviewed cooperation and relations between the two sides in scientific and cultural fields. Dr. Majali briefed Mr. Audland on the university's development and its educational policy. The meeting was attended by EC delegate in Amman Romano Landini. Mr. Audland also toured the university's library and student activities building.

Ministry replies to articles on purchase of Baptist Hospital

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Health Ministry has paid JD 510,000 for the purchase of the 100-bed Baptist Hospital in Ajloun, saving the treasury at least JD 3.5 million which would have been spent on the construction of a new hospital in the city of Ajloun, according to a letter from the ministry published in Al Rai Arabic daily newspaper on Wednesday.

The letter said that the Baptist Hospital in Ajloun used to have a 35 per cent occupancy because it was a private hospital charging high rates. Under government control, the same hospital expected to have 100 per cent occupancy and will benefit a larger sector of the local inhabitants who could not have paid for their medical treatment under the previous administration, the letter continued.

The letter sent to the paper was in reply to articles in the press criticising the government's move and saying that the Baptist Hospital should have been allowed to stay private and that more hospitals should be built to offer a wider service to the local inhabitants. Late last year the Ministry of Health signed an agreement for purchasing the hospital, the only one in Ajloun and ministry sources said that the handover process was underway.

At present, the hospital is closed pending the completion of formal procedures for the takeover, which is due to take place shortly.

In its letter, the ministry made it clear that plans were originally drawn up for building a hospital in Ajloun and this would have cost JD 1 million for purchasing equipment, mostly imported and JD 1.3 million for purchasing building materials, half of which would have to be imported.

Faculty to host training course on computers in agriculture

AMMAN (Petra) — A training course in the use of computers for the analysis of agricultural projects and policies will open on Saturday at the University of Jordan's Faculty of Agriculture. The course is to be held in cooperation between the faculty, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

The eight-day course aims to provide participants with information on the latest computer programmes used in the analysis of agricultural projects, investments and in preparing economic development plans to link the

agricultural sector with population growth. Dr. Suleiman Arabiyat, head of the agricultural economics department at the Faculty of Agriculture, said that the course was the first of its kind to be held in Jordan and that it would discuss topics related to the analysis of agricultural projects and data by using computers to dispense with long mathematical calculations. Computers save time and ensure accuracy in analysis, he noted. Fifteen participants from various ministries, government departments and other institutions will attend the course.

Swareddahab visits Salt, Dead Sea and the valley

SALT (Petra) — Field Marshal Abdul Rahman Swareddahab, former head of the military council in Sudan, on Wednesday visited the Jordan Valley region and called at the Martyr's Monument near Karamah which commemorates the Karamah battle of 1968.

He also visited the King Hussein Bridge across the River Jordan and the Dead Sea where he was guest at a luncheon hosted by Mr. Zuhair Ajlouni, director of the Tourists Investment Department.

Marshal Swareddahab started

his tour with a visit to Salt where he met Balge Governor Mijhem Khreisha, the mayor of Salt and prominent businessmen in the city. Later, he visited the tombs of the companions of the Prophet Muhammad buried in the Jordan Valley town of Deir Alla.

Marshal Swareddahab was accompanied on the tour by Dr. Abdul Salam Al Abbadi, under secretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, who is also rapporteur of a Jordanian national committee for solidarity with the Sudanese people.

Hmoud comments on move to exploit land in Azraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud said that the government's decision to exploit land in the Azraq region for agricultural purposes was in line with official policy to develop arable regions for increasing the agricultural area in the Kingdom.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the minister said that land to be developed within this project extends as far east as the Saudi, Arabian and Iraqi borders. The minister was commenting on Sunday's Cabinet decision to take measures for exploiting lands in Al Azraq region for agricultural purposes in view of the successful exploitation of semi-desert regions in the south eastern regions of the country.

Mr. Hmoud said that a special committee, formed under the directions of the government, is currently conducting a survey on the amounts of underground water in the Azraq region and is expected to submit a report on its findings in two months. He said that the Cabinet will review the committee's findings before issuing directives for the implementation of the project.

The project in Azraq is designed to develop land for farming and increasing the Kingdom's animal wealth, but measures will

also be taken to preserve the area's tourist attractions and wild life, the minister pointed out.

The minister went on to say that the present owners of different plots of land in Azraq will be allowed to continue cultivation, provided they abide by government guidelines and national agricultural policies.

As to state-owned land, the minister said it will be leased to investors from the private sector, individuals or companies, similar to the policy adopted when land in south eastern regions was leased last year, the minister added.

He said that investors will be required to submit feasibility studies of the projects they intend to implement in order to obtain prior approval before embarking on their schemes.

The special committee formed to conduct a survey of the region of Azraq groups representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Water Authority of Jordan and the Department of Land and Survey.

The decision to lease land in Azraq was prompted by the success of similar projects conducted in Qa'a Al Disi and Suwaan in south and south eastern regions of the Kingdom.

During the meeting, a member of the council questioned the fate of what he described the "loosing and bankrupt" project for a commercial complex in Sweileh. The complex was initiated by the Sweileh Municipality — now a member of the Greater Amman Council — and its initial cost of JD 250,000 has quadrupled to almost JD 1 million.

Under Secretary at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Awad Al Tel, also a member of the council, defended the project saying "it was not a losing one, but its cost of construction has become very high."

Citing various reasons which led to the unexpectedly high cost, Mr. Tel said that the soil, on which the complex was erected was "bad," and that the Sweileh Municipality spent almost JD 130,000 to prevent land slides in the area while the project was under construction. The two-storey complex will have a low return on the initial investment, Mr. Rawabdeh added.

Mr. Rawabdeh said the project will open its doors in the near future, after a JD 200,000 tender for the interior finishing has been floated.

Fun-fair flop

Mr. Rawabdeh said that a project to set up a fun-fair city in the Jubeiha area was also a "failure." The project, currently under construction, will cost almost JD 8.5 million. The contract was signed by the former Jubeiha Municipality and a construction firm. Now that the Jubeiha Municipality is part of the Greater Amman Council, the council is responsible for completing the construction of the fun-fair. Mr. Rawabdeh said that numerous technical errors have been conducted and a lot of the fun city's specifications were faulty. However, Mr. Rawabdeh did not say if there were plans to freeze the project.

Asphalt recycling

A suggestion to purchase

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Jordan, Egypt end energy talks

CAIRO (Petra) — Jordan and Egypt on Wednesday concluded talks in Cairo on organising scientific and technical cooperation in solar energy, renewable energy, protection from radiation and research in electronics.

The talks were conducted by Dr. Jawad Al Anani, the president of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), and Egyptian Minister of Electricity and Energy Mohammad Abaza who signed the minutes of their talks.

A statement after the signing ceremony said that both sides reviewed measures for developing the manufacture of solar heaters for domestic use and the prospects of producing heaters at a relatively low cost. They agreed that experts from Jordan and Egypt would conduct joint studies on evaluating materials employed in the manufacture of solar heaters and would look into the prospect of joint production at minimum costs.

They also agreed to exchange samples of solar heaters produced by either country so that proper studies of their performance under different types of weather conditions could be conducted before joint production begins.

The two sides agreed that Jordan and Egypt would also exchange visits by experts in computers to prepare the ground for conducting joint programmes in computer-related sciences.

They also agreed that experts from Egypt and Jordan start joint work on the desalination of sea water employing solar cells and that initial studies should start at the Hamrawin desalination station on Egypt's Red Sea coast.

In the radiation field, they agreed to hold training courses for personnel involved in measuring radiation in different products.

Dr. Anani suggested that both countries enlist West German help in carrying out joint projects in solar energy technology.

Dr. Anani was accompanied on his visit to Egypt by senior experts from the RSS and other departments.

Later Wednesday, Dr. Anani was received by Dr. Atef Sidki, the Egyptian prime minister, with whom he reviewed the subjects discussed with Egyptian officials. After the meeting, Dr. Anani called on Egyptian Minister of State for Administrative Development Atef Uweid with whom he discussed bilateral cooperation in the exchange of information in administrative fields.

The suggestion was put forward to the council by Mr. Rayef Nijem, who argued in favour of the asphalt recycling machine. "Such a method cuts down on the cost of asphalt, on traffic jams and on time needed for maintenance," said Mr. Nijem, a former minister of public works.

The machine, according to Mr. Nijem, scrapes away the damaged part of the road, recycles the removed asphalt coat and spreads it on the area.

Road maintenance engineers have estimated the cost of repairing each one square metre of road to be JD 50.

Earlier reports suggested that the Amman Municipality, which had tested a machine on the Wadi Sagra highway, found the method to be of no use on the majority of roads here due to street construction designs and numerous manholes.

Mr. Nijem criticised technical characteristics of road construction in numerous parts of the Kingdom, adding that the services network should be 60 centimetres below the asphalt, not 15 centimetres.

Replying to these remarks, Mr. Rawabdeh said the majority of the newly-built roads here were "up to standard" since the services are 60 centimetres below the main asphalt coat. "The 15 centimetre depth is only evident in the older road networks" in Amman, said Mr. Rawabdeh.

However, the council meeting on Tuesday left the door open for further suggestions on means to cut down on expenses for road maintenance and the meeting formed a five-member specialised committee to put forward their suggestions.

Health minister opens 5th Jordanian medical conference

Local, Arab and foreign specialists to discuss recent medical advances, health services in the occupied territories

By Sa'ad G. Hattar and Sana Atiyeh
Jordan Times Reporters

AMMAN — Unemployment among Jordanian doctors, the appalling medical situation in the occupied territories and promoting health services in Jordan are the main topics of discussion at the fifth Jordanian medical conference, which opened here on Wednesday under the royal patronage.

More than 1,600 Jordanian, Arab and foreign doctors and physicians are taking part in the three-day conference, which will present and discuss 136 working papers on recent advances in medicine and surgery in almost every field of specialisation.

In an address he delivered at the outset of Wednesday's session, Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh presented an outline of Jordan's medical development in the last few years, especially in primary health care, mother and child care, and health education.

Dr. Hamzeh, delivering a speech on behalf of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, said the Crown Prince believed that providing health services should be within a framework of a nationwide, comprehensive scheme. He called for a further coordination between the public and private sectors and the Royal Medical Services to promote basic and primary health care and to avoid any duplication of work.

In his address, Dr. Hamzeh expressed Crown Prince Hassan's concern over unemployment among Jordanian doctors which, he said, has become a chronic problem over the past few years. In contrast, he added, the medical sector in the Kingdom has a shortage

in qualified Jordanian nurses and midwives.

The minister also called on the Arab nation to shoulder its responsibility towards supporting the steadfastness of Arab inhabitants in the occupied territories who have inadequate medical facilities.

Earlier, President of Jordan Medical Association (JMA) Hassan Khreis, called on the ministerial committee entrusted with studying unemployment to heed the JMA's proposals vis-a-vis creating new vacancies for the nearly 1,000 job-seeking doctors.

More than 9,000 undergraduates are currently studying medicine abroad and will start flowing in within the next six years, he noted. The situation is further aggravated by the fact that hundreds of Jordanian expatriates are expected to return in the near future.

Dr. Khreis, chairman of the conference, also denounced a recent government decision to cancel work allowances and per diems for medical cadres on the government payroll. He said that such a decision deprives the government's medical staff of a privilege they had earned as a substitute for maintaining their private clinics. In a recent lecture, Dr.

Later in the evening session, participants in the conference attended a seminar on Jordanian expatriate doctors. The seminar heard working papers outlining the conditions of Jordanians working abroad, their prospects of emigration as well as potential job opportunities in the Jordanian labour market.

RSS official states need for legislation, safety code on hazardous materials

AMMAN (Petra) — A symposium on the handling of chemical substances and means of protecting people against chemical hazards opened in Amman on Wednesday and heard a call for the introduction of legislation on safety measures and training procedures for personnel handling dangerous materials in factories and other businesses in the country.

The call was made by Mr. Jamal Budur, acting president of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) which organised the symposium in cooperation with the Abdul Hamid Shoman Founda-

tion. Mr. Budur said that chemical industries in Jordan provide jobs for thousands of people who come into contact with chemicals all the time. For this reason, proper safety measures governed by laws and regulations should be introduced at the national level, he said.

At least 13 various industries employ chemical substances in one way or another and thousands of people who deal with them and many thousands more outside are exposed to chemical hazards, Mr. Budur added. He said that the RSS calls on

the government to encourage research work and studies on the dangers of chemical substances and to introduce control measures that would reduce the risks.

Chemical industries play a major role in the national economy and are used in the manufacture of a wide range of items, therefore proper and sound safety measures should be introduced and training for qualified personnel should be provided.

This symposium, he said, was a continuation of a study on chemical and dangerous substances started by the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in 1984.

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Rights and wrongs

COMPARING the recently released human rights report of the U.S. State Department with the recent resolution of the U.N. Human Rights Commission, one is immediately struck by the differences in their treatment of Israel's human rights violations in the occupied Arab territories. Perhaps the differences lie simply in the perspective of the investigators. Or perhaps, more likely, the differences lay in the divergent political motives of the two bodies.

For example, according to the State Department report, "political killing is not condoned by Israel. However, there have been deaths and injuries as a result of both terrorist acts and Israeli defence force measures." Reading this, one gets the impression that most of the killing in the occupied territories is caused by Arab "terrorists" and the Israeli forces' attempts to defend themselves against these attacks. Never mind that the "Israeli defence force" is an occupying army. In marked contrast, the U.N. commission's resolution referred to "Israel's brutal practices and crimes of genocide against the Palestinian people." It does appear that the two bodies are reporting on entirely different situations. But in fact, they are both about Israeli actions in the occupied Arab territories.

In addition, the U.N. commission condemned Israel's violation of the Palestinians' right to self-determination, a right conspicuously absent from the State Department's report. Yet the right to self-determination is the human right upon which all other rights depend. For a people to insure that its human rights are respected, it requires the ability to determine its own form of government with sovereignty over its own territory. Then, and only then, will all its other human rights be respected. This, unfortunately, is not the case for the Palestinians in the Israeli occupied territories. It is therefore appropriate, we think, for the U.N. commission to stress this human right and it is understandable why this is absent from the State Department report.

As could be expected, the United States voted against the U.N. commission's resolution condemning Israel for its occupation. Of the 43 nations who are members of the commission, 29 voted in favour, six voted against, and seven abstained.

We are encouraged that the vast majority of the commission's members recognise the true nature of the human rights violations taking place in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Unfortunately, the United States continues to pretend that the human rights violations in the occupied territories are caused by Arab terrorism. Rather, as we see it, the human rights problem in the West Bank and Gaza is rooted in the soil of Israeli occupation, and Israel's denial to the Palestinian people of their ultimate human right — self-determination.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Rifai outlines Jordan's policies

IN an interview with Al Sharq Al Awsat magazine Prime Minister Zaid Rifai fully expounded Jordan's policies with regard to the Middle East question, inter-Arab relations and issues of concern to the Arab and Muslim world. Mr. Rifai voiced support for Syria's deployment of forces in west Beirut and said that it was an important move to put an end to the sufferings of the Lebanese people. Jordan, he said, continues to support all measures aimed at safeguarding Lebanon's independence and territorial sovereignty. The prime minister was clear in his reference to Jordanian-U.S. relations and said that a rejection by Congress of the sale of U.S. arms to Jordan prompted Jordan to seek arms from other sources with the intention of acquiring means for defence. This problem and the U.S. arms deal with Iran have been instrumental in negatively affecting Arab-American relations in general and U.S.-Jordanian ties in particular. In addition to this, the U.S. continues to extend support and unlimited help to Israel, thus helping it to consolidate its occupation of Arab land and increasing its aggression on the Arab Nation. The prime minister was critical of U.S. policies with regard to the Middle East question and said that Washington's alliance with Israel was creating further tension in the Arab region.

Al Dustour: Jordan grateful for EC

PRIME Minister Zaid Rifai gave a statement to Al Sharq Al Awsat magazine in which he reiterated Jordan's firm policies with regard to the Middle East question and other issues of concern to the Arab Nation. He also paid tribute to the European Community which endorsed Jordan's call for the holding of an international conference to resolve the Middle East problem, and described this endorsement as a success for Arab diplomacy. This support from Europe, Mr. Rifai said, was a clear backing for Jordan's policies and relentless efforts by King Hussein to bring about peace to the region. The European stand, he said, was in line with resolutions issued by the Arab summit in Fez and in conformity with those of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Islamic nations. Mr. Rifai said that the Arabs were able to win Europe's support after Washington has lost all credibility as a result of its series of follies and mistakes, and its blind support for the aggressors in the Middle East and the Iran arms deal scandal. He said that Jordan was grateful for Europe and hopes that Arab countries will now take joint action to benefit from the European positive stand and work towards convening the proposed international conference which is bound to help them regain their rights and their usurped property.

Sawt Al Shaab: A success for Arabs

IN his frank statement to the Al Sharq Al Awsat magazine, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai said that the European endorsement of the idea of an international conference was a success for the Arab diplomacy. But, he said, that the United States and Israel continue to exert efforts for obstructing such a conference because such a conference would mean an Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab land. In his interview, the prime minister touched also on other issues of concern to the Arab Nation; namely the situation in Lebanon and the Gulf conflict. As for Lebanon, the prime minister reiterated Jordan's support for the deployment of Syrian troops in west Beirut because this move, he said, is bound to end the fighting and enhance all measures designed to bring back peace to the embattled nation. Mr. Rifai also spoke of the need for Arab solidarity and backing for Iraq in its war with Iran.

Algeria faces multiple challenges

By Francis Ghiles

THE riots which shook Constantine and Setif early last November did not come entirely as a surprise. What happened to these two important towns which are situated in eastern Algeria — a region from many members of the country's establishment hail — was symbolic of the malaise which presently grips Africa's second largest country. Algerian leaders are faced with a growth rate of only 2.9 per cent in this year's GDP which is slower than the increase in population (3.2 per cent) for the first time since the 1973-4 oil price rises.

The resulting cutbacks have been severe and there is little hope of life being easier this year or indeed next. The victims of this situation are, first and foremost, the unemployed who constitute 17 per cent of the active population and whose numbers are bound to go up. The bulk of the unemployed are young people. Those under 20 years of age already account for two thirds of

Algeria's 23m people. They have little to look forward in towns where finding lodgings is extremely difficult even for those who do have jobs and where entertainment and sports facilities are few.

The cutbacks have been severe and there is little hope of life being easier this year.

Even if the government were to give the creation of new jobs far greater weight when deciding on investment projects than hitherto, the growing number of unemployed with little interest in the political ideals which still motivate many of their elders constitutes a threat to Algeria's future social stability. Cutting imports (by one third) and investment (by one quarter) has required political courage though food imports have been left almost untouched. The shortage of everyday necessities that still hedges Algeria, particularly Algiers (coffee, oil and detergents in recent months)

are due more to hoarding and speculation than anything else. But the state is paying a heavy price for the destruction of the wholesale markets it engineered in the early 1970s under President Chadli's predecessor, the late Houari Boumedienne.

The unshackling of the farming sector allowed a doubling of the cereal crop last year, a more abundant supply of vegetables since 1983 and real progress in the production of pulses, eggs, poultry etc. But prices are very high, a feature which the authorities have avoided tampering with, believing that to successfully negotiate the revival of farming a free price mechanism is essential. Reviving this sector is proving to be slow process but it is being conducted with determination by the country's former and much feared head of internal security, Mr. Kandi Merbah. The authorities hope that, as they sell off state land to private farmers and extend bank loans to them, some town dwellers might be attracted back to the countryside

where the average age of the population is 55 years.

Hydrocarbons account for 97.8 per cent of Algeria's foreign income which set to decline by 40 per cent this year. This will wipe out last year's \$3.9 billion trade surplus and push the debt service ratio as a percentage of exports of goods and services up from 35 to over 40 per cent. New jobs are going to be increasingly scarce in the year to come: 160,000 new jobs were on offer last year, only half the number needed to satisfy new entrants into the labour market.

"La verite des prix," prices which reflect the true cost of production and imports, remains very much official policy. It hurts socially but is held to be crucial if productivity is to increase. Wages are still set according to the very rigid grid of the Statut General des Travailleurs: but what is needed is a far greater measure of encouragement for managers and sanctions against those who do not work. The climate is changing however, as workers have been

sacked from state companies for the first time since independence in 1962. Other reforms are also being pursued and the head of state is emphatic about giving greater freedom to the private sector which plays a key role in textiles, leather, food processing, plastics and retailing. All these sectors, especially the service industries, must develop faster if they are to provide much needed jobs. But at the same time Algeria is coming to accept an increase in pay differentials as a way to encourage higher productivity and better quality.

The sharp decline in foreign income is prompting the shelving of many projects.

The sharp decline in foreign income is prompting the shelving of many new projects. This is not necessarily a bad thing as a tendency of many Algerian managers has been to order the latest technology but pay too little

attention to maintenance. Hence the many machines which either lie idle or do not function fully for want of spare parts or specialised personnel. President Chadli made no apology when he criticised the bureaucratic moves which have done so much damage to Algerian economic well being. Much has been invested in education, health and industry but those who run the state companies must loose some of their arrogance.

As the unshackling of the economy proceeds, there is a danger that symbols of the new rich are becoming too conspicuous — flashy cars, large houses etc., are bound to appear insulting in a country where a rough feeling of egalitarianism born of a revolution less than one generation ago remains strong. The challenge which faces Algerian leaders is considerable: only time will tell whether the measures now being taken ensure that the country is steered back on the road to steadier growth — Middle East International, London.

China party document links Hu downfall to 6 errors

By Daniel Southerland

BEIJING — Hu Yaobang who was forced to resign in January as leader of the Chinese Communist Party, made six major mistakes that led to his downfall, according to a party document and a ranking party cadre.

Communist Party Document No. 3, as it is known by cadres, shows that the complaints against him, which were made secretly within the party, go back several years. They included these major mistakes:

● Mr. Hu, the document said, "encouraged" those who promoted "bourgeois liberalisation" and tried to protect them. He also created the basis for a questioning of the Communist system that ultimately led to student demonstrations calling for democracy.

● In ideology, Mr. Hu was guilty of leading a struggle against leftist ideas but not against rightist ideas, according to the leaders.

● In economics, Mr. Hu was accused of promoting dangerously high growth rates and placing consumption ahead of production. Mr. Hu, leaders said, did not approve of slogans calling for hard work and frugality, slogans that have been revived since his removal. Mr. Hu's approach, according to the document, caused serious economic imbalances in 1984. In the party leaders' view, the economy was running out of control.

● On major policy issues, Mr. Hu was accused of arguing that the views of leaders were more important than rule by law. Mr. Hu disrupted the country's legal process, the document said, and made statements on legal matters that were "not serious."

● In diplomacy, Mr. Hu was accused of "saying things on many occasions which he should not have said."

● The party leaders charged Mr. Hu with indiscipline, saying that he often failed to respect

decisions made by the National People's Congress, China's legislature, as well as those made by a variety of party organisations. They said the party chief made many unauthorised comments on unspecified important issues.

The confidential document says Deng Xiaoping, the country's senior leader, took the lead on a number of occasions in alerting Mr. Hu to his errors over the years, but that the ebullient party chief did not heed the warnings.

The document also indicates that three leaders — Mr. Deng, President Li Xiannian and Chen Yun, the senior economic planner — will play leading roles in developing a new system of control over top officials. Such a system would be designed to prevent another Communist Party chief from committing the kind of mistakes that Mr. Hu allegedly made.

A ranking party cadre briefed reporters from The Washington Post, Agence France-Presse and Japan's Kyodo News Service last week on three party documents, which portray Mr. Deng as having taken a consistently hard line toward proponents of Western-style democracy.

The disclosure of these documents, and the willingness of ranking officials to reveal them, could be meant to serve two purposes.

First, the documents may serve to distance Mr. Deng from Mr. Hu, a former Deng protégé. Also, they could be intended to show that Mr. Deng is in control of party affairs at a time when he appears to be on the defensive with party hard-liners concerned about the pace of economic and political liberalisation.

The documents also appear to be aimed at providing policy guidance to party cadres. Since Mr. Hu was forced to resign Jan. 16, there has been intense speculation in the international press

about the reasons behind the move.

Document No. 3 seems to reflect heavy conservative influence at the top of the party, since both Mr. Li and Mr. Chen are regarded as conservatives, or Marxist traditionalists.

The prominence of these conservatives in setting policy, as described in the document, also raises questions about the more liberal economic changes introduced by Mr. Deng. These

changes include market-oriented incentives and diminished centralised control.

Both Mr. Li and Mr. Chen are believed to be critical of the scope and pace of the economic changes. Both are believed to favour a return to more central planning.

Taken together, the documents constitute the most complete and authoritative official account to date of Mr. Hu's "errors" and of Mr. Deng's attitude toward intel-

lectual dissent and the recent student demonstrations in several Chinese cities.

Document No. 3 is based on extracts from a longer report by a veteran party official, Bo Yibo. Mr. Bo, who is considered a conservative, wrote a summary of the meeting at which Mr. Hu resigned.

Yet another document, designated No. 2, seems to indicate that Mr. Deng was an early advocate of the struggle against

"bourgeois liberalism," which is manifested in the current campaign against Western political ideas.

This relatively brief document says Mr. Deng delivered a speech on the subject on the final day of the sixth full session of the party Central Committee on Sept. 28.

"In the battle against bourgeois liberalism, I am the one who has spoken out the most," Mr. Deng was quoted as saying — Washington Post.

Mao's words are returning

China is changing yet again: slogans such as "get rich through labour" have been replaced with exhortations to be thrifty. Robert Thomson reports on the powerful resurgence of the country's conservative forces.

PEKING — Students prodding bowls of Chinese dumplings, rice and pork in the dining hall of the Peking Iron and Steel Institute in recent days have had their digestion inspired by the revival of recorded messages of the thoughts of Mao Tse-tung, the late Great Helmsman.

The renewed emphasis on Mao's teachings is a sign of the political turmoil that, according to some diplomats, has set back the country's development several years, and has seen serious challenges to the authority of the new Communist party leader, Zhao Ziyang.

China's paramount leader, Deng Xiaoping, is to-ing and fro-ing to such an extent that it is difficult to know where he stands. Yet there is no doubt that he has lost prestige with the demise of Hu Yaobang as party general-secretary. Deng had originally promoted his long-time friend to that post, despite strong conservative opposition, and then fell out himself with the hapless Hu.

Deng has also seen the undermining of his plan for an orderly succession, which he attempted

to institutionalise by encouraging elderly officials to retire. Instead, a clutch of septuagenarians and octogenarians is leading the conservative charge and, at best, the succession question will be settled by a compromise, which compounds the country's crippling lack of direction.

Conservative officials have cornered much newspaper space in recent days, despite Zhao's attempt to set precise boundaries for the drive against "bourgeois liberalisation," by which the party means Western influence. Zhao had wanted the campaign limited to party members, but conservatives, who are more orthodox in their devotion to Marxism, are extending the drive to the military universities, and cultural workers generally.

Party control over individuals and the country as a whole is at the heart of the conservative drive. Parents and neighbours have been encouraged to lecture students on their social role, and students report that party members are taking notes of what is said during class discussions and even during casual conversations. Slogans such as "Get rich

through labour" have been replaced by exhortations to be "thrifty" and "selfless." The individual is to sacrifice him or herself on behalf of what the party defines as the state's interests.

The interpretation of Marxism is also at the heart of the struggle. Hu Yaobang and friends believed that Marxism could be "enriched" and drew a faint party line which was frequently crossed by academics and artists.

However, Peng Zhen, a senior conservative, and his friends are demanding that clear guidelines be drawn, based on orthodox Marxism, so that the Chinese people will not misunderstand Marx.

The conservatives are also emphasising themes such as "self-reliance," which is also an echo of Maoist thinking. A typical tack by an official wanting to make this point is to make the right noises about the need for an "open door" policy, but then stress, as has the president, Li Xiannian, that there is a grave danger that "our industry will not be able to grow" if foreign products are allowed into the country.

Chinese financial agencies are waiting for the political dust to settle. Foreign business people based here have noticed a

marked fall in the confidence of import and export corporations.

Conservatives have also stepped up their attack on agricultural policy, and called for the introduction of more controls on farmers to ensure that they use all available fertile land and to stop them "wasting" their money.

A forum organised by the People's Daily newspaper concluded that "farmers have spent a lot of money building new homes and many of them even used their hard-earned money to build temples and tombs and carry out superstitious activities."

If the conservatives get their way, and most diplomats are not sure which way the political wind will turn, China's economic reforms are likely to stall, as the party will almost certainly strangle the individual initiative and confidence that reformers have worked so hard to develop in the past seven years.

Conservative officials have repeatedly said that "stability and unity" are their foremost concerns, and yet their drive has ensured that Chinese policies will be a confusing and messy business for a long time to come. And, of course, the Chinese people are foremost among those bewildered by the comings and goings of the Communist party — Financial Times feature.

Reagan needs 'major foreign challenge'

By Christopher Hanson
Reuters

WASHINGTON — President Reagan has been so badly hurt by the Iran scandal that many political experts are convinced only one thing could salvage his standing — a major foreign challenge causing America to rally round.

Critics say Mr. Reagan, long aloof from the detail of government, lacks the energy, knowledge or competence to tally the country on his own.

The 76-year-old president suffered a body blow when the Tower Commission, appointed by Mr. Reagan and led by former Senator John Tower, issued a report slamming his lax governing style and condemning his top aides.

The report — released after a three-month probe of secret arms sales to Iran and diversion of profits to Nicaraguan rebels — blasted Mr. Reagan for violating his counter-terror policy by trading arms for U.S. hostages in Lebanon.

It said he had little understanding of his own policies.

This is the first time I know of in American history that it's been conclusively proven that the president wasn't in charge," George Reedy, who was President Lyndon Johnson's press secretary, said in an interview.

Even diehard members of Mr. Reagan's Republican Party are convinced the Reagan presidency is shattered beyond repair, but others see one slim hope of recovery.

Stephen Hess, a political scientist and former aide to President Richard Nixon, said a revival would require a foreign challenge as serious as the 1962 Cuban missile crisis or the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961.

"That would get people to instantly rally round," he said. James Reichley, a political analyst at the private Brookings Institute, said Mr. Reagan's perceived weakness could tempt foreign enemies to try to take advantage, giving him the opportunity to react firmly and regain stature.

Some Reagan loyalists say he can now begin to recover because he has shaken up his White House team, replacing Chief of Staff Donald Regan, who took a pounding in the Tower report, with former Senator Howard Baker.

But Robert Strauss, a strategist

for the opposition Democratic Party who has advised Mr. Reagan on how to cope with the scandal, told reporters: "I don't think changing the face of his administration gets him much credit now."

An independent investigator is probing the Iran-contra affair for possible illegalities. Investigating committees of the Democrat-controlled Congress are expected to bedevil the administration for at least a year, possibly longer.

There may be indictments and criminal trials of some former Reagan aides. More embarrassing disclosures seem likely.

The Tower Commission was

the easy part," political analyst Norman Ornstein of the conservative American Enterprise Institute Research Organisation told Reuters.

A few members of Congress say Mr. Reagan could revitalise his presidency through a show of personal pain or seeking a nuclear arms pact.

"It certainly can be retrieved," Senator George Mitchell, a Democrat, told reporters. "He's got to take charge."

But most presidency watchers believe Mr. Reagan — who has been detached from the detail of government throughout his political career — will not alter the habits of a lifetime.

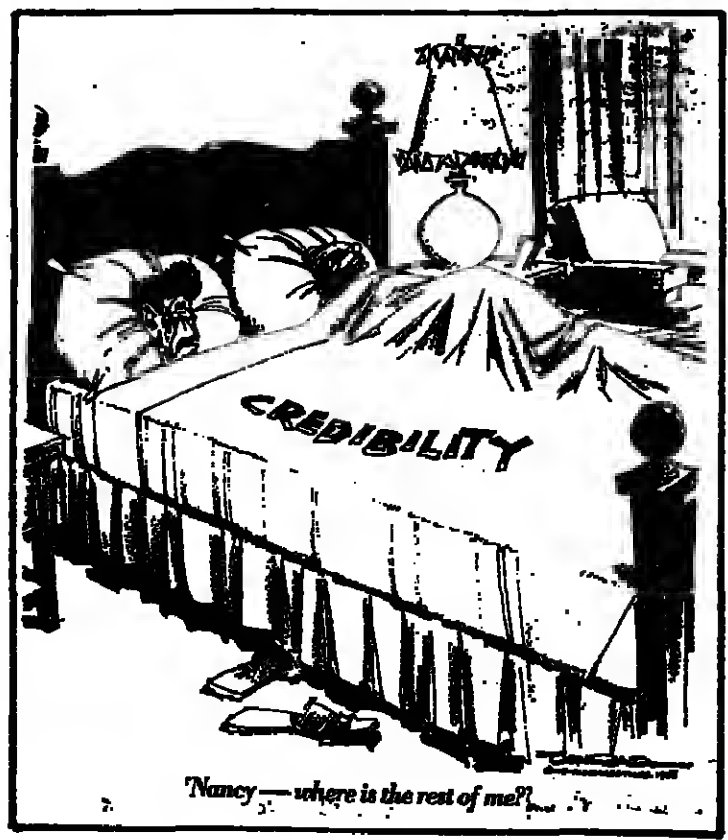
President Jimmy Carter, trounced by Mr. Reagan in the 1980 elections, was widely faulted for getting bogged down in such details as who could play on the White House tennis court. Mr. Reagan evidently has the opposite problem.

"He's not going to change at age 76 — that would require a brain transplant," Duke University's James Barber, author of an influential book, the Presidential Character, told Reuters.

Tower has said the Iran affair was an "aberration," but even some Reagan backers disagree.

"It is part of a pattern," wrote conservative columnist George Will, a confidant of Mr. Reagan's wife Nancy. "(His) style reflects a character trait. That trait is a grave flaw ... It is sloth, nowadays known as laziness."

Critics say Mr. Reagan's detachment from detail has resulted in a series of embarrassing televised gaffes despite periodic staff efforts to persuade him to do his homework.



Handwritten signature: *Al-Jazeera*

He-man and the Masters of the Universe land in New York

By Steve James
Reuter

NEW YORK — After conquering the world of children's toys and cartoon shows, it was inevitable that He-man would set his sights on New York.

The yellow-haired muscleman, dressed in velvet underpants, silver breastplate and wielding a magic sword, who daily saves the people of Eternia from the evil forces of Skeletor, has landed at Radio City Music Hall here.

Not content with selling some one billion dollars worth of toys around the world and being watched on television every day by four million children in the United States, He-man has brought his act to the stage.

The super-hero is joined by his sister-in-arms She-ra and together they vanquish Skeletor and his henchmen beastman, Evil Lyn, Hordak and a whole horde of loathsome monsters and mutations.

The show, "He-man, She-ra and the Masters of the Universe," has already played in Philadelphia, Memphis, Minneapolis and several smaller towns. It sold out 16 performances at Radio City this month and three extra shows were added. After its New York success, it hit the road for a 60-week national tour.

It is a huge production, featuring lights, lasers and special effects on a giant set — the Eternian masterdome — complete with original music score, exotic costumes and death-de-

fying stunts.

The He-man phenomenon is a classic tale of modern marketing techniques.

In 1982, the Mattel toy company launched a line of "poseable action figures" featuring He-man and a host of other characters set in a kind of Camelot of the future in space.

The toys, selling for around seven dollars each, were aimed at boys playing out fantasy games of good versus evil.

Mattel 18 months later began televising animated films in which the He-man characters take on a life of their own, involved in life and death struggles to preserve the "good" society at Castle Greyskull in the fantasy land of Eternia.

Opponents of so-called "war

toys" have criticised the 30-minute TV shows for being little more than elongated advertisements for the toys.

The producers, however, say the shows have social value because no-one is actually shown being hurt or killed and because He-man appears at the end of each film to give a brief lecture on certain virtues.

The net effect of the cartoons on 125 U.S. television stations was to boost sales of the toys. Although Mattel will not reveal actual figures, the company has sold an estimated one billion dollars worth of He-man and the Masters of the Universe series worldwide.

According to Mattel the sale of He-man toys has started to decline in the United States in the

past year although sales overseas are still growing.

"They peaked about a year ago. Most toys have a cycle life of three to four years," said Mattel spokesman Spencer Boise.

However, the TV films, the stage show and a movie expected this summer are all designed to spur sales by keeping the concept alive, he said.

"The toy and the tie-in shows were all part of the overall merchandising campaign," said Boise.

It was only a matter of time, too, that a female counterpart should emerge as a line of toys and with a TV show of her own to attract girls.

Enter She-ra... He-man's sister who like him is pledged to fight for the forces of good.

For the stage version of the saga, He-man and She-ra are played by a real-life husband and wife — Jack and Leslie Wadsworth.

Young fans may not care but this He-man is down-to-earth — he used to drive trucks in Alaskan oil fields.

On a trip to California someone persuaded Wadsworth to take up body-building and he got his break in Hollywood playing the lead in "The Adventures of Conan" — a live performance at Universal Studios.

His leading lady in the show was Leslie, who used to train parrots at a Los Angeles amusement park. Within months they married in a lavish on-stage ceremony at Universal.

The young who wait on Death Row

There has been a marked acceleration in the U.S. in state executions and a large proportion of those awaiting death are very young. Nancy Dunne and David Owen report on this latest prison trend.

SAN FRANCISCO — A little more than 10 years ago, on January 17, 1977, a 36-year-old man wearing a black T-shirt, white trousers and tennis shoes was strapped into a wooden chair in a prison warehouse in Utah and summarily shot.

The execution — and the events which led up to it — inspired a Pulitzer Prize-winning Norman Mailer novel, a Lawrence Sanders feature film and a hit single by an obscure punk rock band called the Adverts.

More importantly, it brought to an end a near-10-year spell of enforced idleness for U.S. firing squads, electric chairs and gas chambers and presaged a marked acceleration in the rate of executions in recent years.

The last U.S. citizen before Gary Gilmore to be killed for his crimes was Luis Monge, who perished in a Colorado gas chamber in 1967. The first to die after Gilmore was not executed until 1979. A further 66 Death Row inmates have now shared Gilmore's fate across the 37 states which have passed new death penalty statutes.

The reason behind the 12-year hiatus — Gilmore might still be alive today but for opting to waive his appeal rights — was a series of court decisions in the late-1960s and early-1970s which highlighted the capricious nature of capital punishment. Eventually, the Supreme Court effectively struck down the death penalty in 1972, only to uphold new laws including special sentencing procedures with more elaborate safeguards four years later.

Willie — his real name cannot be used at the insistence of his attorney — is 23 and has been fighting a date with the gas chamber for five and a half years. He is one of 29 U.S. Death Row inmates who committed murder as a juvenile (younger than 18) and is awaiting execution as an adult. A psychiatrist, paid by the state, testified in court that Willie is and always will be, a danger to society.

Of the prisoners who have been executed since the U.S. Supreme Court allowed the practice to resume in 1977, six committed their crimes while juveniles. Thirty-six states allow capital punishment for the young, almost always for particularly vicious crimes. Indiana sets the minimum age for the penalty at 10 years of age, and Montana at 12.

Thus far, however, American Death Rows contain no children. The youngest to be condemned to the death watch now are two black men, one in Arkansas and one in North Carolina, who were found guilty of robbery and murder at the age of 15.

Willie looks like an ordinary young man — skinny, prominent blue eyes, wearing bandana to conceal his hair loss. He was convicted of involvement in a drug-alcohol-related rape-murder along with four other defendants. One of the accused turned state's evidence, testified that Willie had committed the murder, and was given probation. Two others received five-year sentences and are now free on parole. The fourth is serving a life

term in a behaviour modification/psychiatric facility.

"A lot of the time, the death penalty will turn on the political climate," says Willie's attorney. "Sometimes it is just the prosecutor running for re-election." Usually, he says, the defendants are suffering mental illness or are retarded. In Willie's case, tests showed him to be severely retarded and emotionally unstable.

He says he spends 23 hours a day in his cell writing letters to about 150 correspondents and studying for a high school degree. The other hour is spent walking around a small room or taking one of the showers permitted each week. He is in protective custody because, as a young man, he is vulnerable to sexual attack.

The Supreme Court has yet to rule decisively on capital punishment for juveniles. In 1982, it ducked the issue, requiring only that judges and juries recognise that "the chronological age of a minor is itself a relevant mitigating factor of great weight." It avoided ruling again in 1986 in a last-minute appeal on behalf of Terry Roach, a retarded youth afflicted with an incurable brain disease, who was electrocuted soon afterwards.

Willie is 23 and has been fighting a date with the gas chamber for five and a half years. He is one of 29 U.S. Death Row inmates who committed murder as a juvenile (younger than 18) and is awaiting execution as an adult. A psychiatrist, paid by the state, testified in court that Willie is and always will be, a danger to society.

Four of the six juvenile criminals executed since 1977 were from Texas, the state holding the record for the most executions. To make its executions "more humane," Texas has begun the practice of death by lethal injection. In December, the state attorney-general, Mr. Jim Mattox, acknowledged that one of the 19 men executed since 1982 may have been wrongly sentenced to die. Two others on death row also probably should not be punished by death, he said.

Civil rights lawyers believe he may be referring to men who were convicted of being accomplices in murders and not the actual gunmen. One study two years ago showed that in 35 out of 55 cases, executed men were accomplices rather than the actual murderers, who testified for the state and were given lesser penalties.

Certainly, the restitution of the death penalty would appear to be in accordance with the public's wishes. Capital punishment is favoured by 70 per cent of Americans, according to a 1986 Gallup poll, and as such is a surefire vote-winner — one of the surest there is, although support drops off when the question of extreme youth is raised.

This augurs badly for the 1,800 or so Death Row inhabitants — a figure which has multiplied more than four times since that morning when they pinned a round, white target to Gary Gilmore's T-shirt and fired four bullets and a blank at the killer's heart — Financial Times feature.

Independence of Vatican complicates scandal probe

By Frances d'Emilio
The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — One doesn't need a tourist map to know he has left Italy and crossed into another world. The Vatican's cobbled streets are clean, its office workers reasonably polite and the severe gaze of a Swiss guard seems enough to keep out the chaos of Rome.

Last week, Italian justice officials got a sharp reminder of the proud independence of the world's smallest city-state, 108.7 acres (44 hectares) near the Tiber River in the middle of Rome.

A Milan judge investigating Italy's biggest banking scandal since World War II revealed arrest warrants were issued for three top officials of the Vatican Bank, formally known as the Institute of Religious Works. One warrant named the bank's longtime president, American Archbishop Paul C. Marcinkus, popularly referred to as "God's administrator."

Whether the white-haired, 65-year-old prelate from the United States will actually be arrested hinges largely on the delicate relationship between Italy and the Vatican. The two states have a series of agreements which only recently were revised, but no extradition treaty.

Marcinkus' arrest appears unlikely as long as he stays within

the stone walls encircling most of Vatican City. As the Rome newspaper La Repubblica headlined: "Only with (the Pope's) permission can Marcinkus be arrested."

Last Thursday, the day after news of the warrants broke, Vatican sources said Marcinkus showed up at his usual hour, 8 a.m., for work at the bank, housed in a 15th-century tower next to the residence of Pope John Paul II.

Court sources said police a few days earlier went to a villa in the hills of Rome where Marcinkus sometimes stays, but the mansion wasn't there. The respected financial daily Italia Oggi said Marcinkus, "possibly warned by a providential wind," left the villa two hours earlier.

Like other high-ranking officials in the Roman Catholic Church hierarchy, Marcinkus has a Vatican apartment.

The warrant charges Marcinkus as an "accessory to fraudulent bankruptcy" in the 1982 collapse of Banco Ambrosiano, a Milan-based institution whose demise was entwined with the lives of two mysterious Italian financiers, Michele Sindona and Roberto Calvi.

Sindona, who once advised the Vatican bank on financial matters, died after drinking poison in his prison cell last year. Calvi, known as "God's banker" for similar dealings with the Vatican,

was found hanging under Blackfriars bridge in London in 1982.

"Within the Vatican... one cannot but feel profound astonishment at the news of the measures that are reported taken by Milanese magistrates against the president and two high officials" of the bank, the Vatican said in a communique.

Citing an article of the Lateran Pact, signed in 1929 by Pope Pius XI and Italian dictator Benito Mussolini, it noted that the "central organs of the Catholic Church are free from every interference on the part of the Italian state."

Vatican observers felt the message was clear. Commented the Corriere Della Sera newspaper: "A tough reply from the Vatican to the arrest warrants: Marcinkus will never go to Italian prison."

Italian justice ministry officials say they are studying church-state accords to see how police might arrest Marcinkus and his two colleagues.

"The Vatican has the duty to hand over" someone implicated in a crime, one ministry official told the Associated Press, on condition of anonymity. But he added, "maybe we need a new regulation."

A Vatican official, who also refused to be identified, offered a different interpretation, pointing to article 22 of the Lateran pact. The article says the church



Paul C. Marcinkus

"will hand over to the state of Italy persons allegedly taken refuge in Vatican City, accused of crimes, committed in Italian territory that are held to be criminal under the laws of both states."

Taking out a black pen, the Vatican official underlined the phrase, "both states." Then, pointing to the phrase "committed in Italian territory," he said, "This is important."

The Vatican official implied that Marcinkus' work at the Vatican could not be construed as actions committed in Italy. Another implication was that the Vatican would have to judge those actions as criminal.

International economic talks — nice food, mixed results

By David Ress
Reuter

LONDON — The food is usually lovely. The hosts are always charming. But when ministers and diplomats meet to hammer out international economic agreements, the results are at best mixed, economists say.

That is why many are fairly sceptical on whether the recent Paris agreement by the influential group of five industrial nations and Canada will really stop the slide of the dollar.

Based on the recent history of government efforts to control prices in global markets — whether the exchange rate of the dollar, or the price of oil or tin — most believe that last month's agreement will be little more than a stopgap.

"International agreements work if the market is with them, but if market forces are against them, they have only limited effect," said Steven Bell, chief economist at investment bankers Morgan Grenfell and Co.

"Major market trends tend not to be reversed until there's real pain," he said. "Not many government officials are willing to agree to that."

In these days of debt crisis for many Third World producers of basic commodities, and of massive trade imbalances between major industrial nations, it is harder than ever to reach an international currency or commodity price agreement.

"Absolutely," replies D. Sykes Wilford, a Chase Manhattan Bank vice president. "There does seem to be more of the beggar-thy-neighbour policies now," said Wilford, a member of the so-called "shadow G-7," a group of economists who monitor the international monetary policy initiative of the group of seven nations.

The latest agreement on the dollar makes many economists wonder if the United States is ready to accept the pain of slashing a massive budget deficit, just as they had wondered if every OPEC member was ready to accept the pain of sharply reduced export earnings, in exchange for steady oil prices.

Commodity-price agreements, from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries to the International Tin Council, "have on the whole been very

disappointing," said Martin Wolf, director of studies at London's Trade Policy Research Centre.

"They are always vulnerable to one country breaking away to pursue its own national interest... and there is more of this when countries are in distress," Wolf said.

"The underlying problem is that producers tend to agree to fix prices at levels higher than the price that is sustainable in the long run," Wolf said. "The result is a glut and the collapse of the agreement as prices fall."

Agreements to maintain stability in money markets are a bit different — "basically because countries can print as much money as they like, but they can't do that with a commodity," said Wolf.

But economists say they don't seem to work much better, because currency agreements often require painful domestic policies — in the case of last month's Paris pact, economic steps that Japan and West Germany fear will rekindle inflation. The United States basically came to the meeting saying the dollar would keep sliding unless those steps to stimulate their economies, so that they absorb more imports, were made.

The massive U.S. trade deficit had to be got down to more manageable levels than last year's \$170 billion, it said.

The reason is simple — for carworkers in Detroit and textile workers in the Carolinas, that trade deficit represents a real fear for their jobs, and that fear is pushing their congressmen to draft legislation to limit imports.

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High technology used to find lost tombs

By Mimi Mann
The Associated Press

CAIRO — Ultra-modern instruments on a hot-air balloon floating above the desert floor are mapping the underground world of dead pharaohs in Southern Egypt's wind-rutted Valley of the Kings.

The sophisticated equipment has also helped U.S. and Egyptian archaeologists find two of four tombs that were known to exist but had disappeared under the sands of time.

Both tombs had been visited by tourists and scientists more than 100 years ago, but had been stripped of artifacts by grave-robbers and left hidden under sand and debris.

Egyptian authorities stressed that the tombs are filled with rubble, not treasures. Nevertheless, project scientists said the technology that located them could open new possibilities for discovering previously unknown tombs.

The latest find, a tomb possibly of the sons of Ramses II, occurred in January. It dates from the

New Kingdom of Ancient Egypt, which began more than 3,500 years ago.

Dr. Ahmed Kadiy, chairman of the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation, called the recent find the most dramatic of the work done by the University of California at Berkeley.

Kent R. Weeks, an associate professor of Egyptian archaeology at Berkeley, heads the team using U.S.-made infrared devices to map the valley's brownish-yellow, bone-dry hillsides and ravines housing tombs of pharaohs and nobles.

For eight years, Weeks and his team have worked on creating the first comprehensive map of the entire Valley of the Kings, showing the area's topography and man-made and natural formations, and the locations of known tombs in relation to other tombs and to natural landmarks.

In a telephone interview from Berkeley, Weeks said locating the two tombs was less important than proving that they could be found with the technology he is employing.

"He didn't go after treasure,"

he said. "We went after four tombs that we knew existed in order to prove our instruments could find them. So far we've found two, which is wonderful."

"We decided we would go first after the missing tombs in high-risk areas. We wanted to see if they were lying near rest houses or parking lots, places where they could be damaged. The new (Ramses) tomb, in fact, lies only a few paces away from a paved bus park."

Sixty-two tombs have been identified in the Valley of the Kings. Most have been robbed, reused and robbed again over the millennia. The only one found in virtually unscathed condition was that of the boy Pharaoh Tutankhamun, whose golden burial riches stunned the world when his tomb was opened by Howard Carter of Britain in 1922.

The Berkeley scientific team dug through piles of rubble for 10 days before crawling through a doorway to the tomb thought to have been constructed for the sons of Ramses II. Ramses is considered among Ancient Egypt's greatest pharaohs and

apparently fathered scores of children.

The door, in turn, led to a large chamber supported by 16 pillars — making it one of the largest rooms of any tomb in the valley.

Weeks' expedition is scanning the area with infrared sonar and radar devices and magnetometers, which measure subtle variations in the earth's magnetic field.

Because of the difficult terrain, Weeks has carried out the project with aircraft. He began with a DC-3 but found a better solution with hot-air balloons, which soar like giant butterflies above the heads of hundreds of tourists who visit the valley daily.

"We found that balloons allow us to go high and fast, then to descend at slow speed, to drop over the cliffs," he told the Associated Press.

Weeks said his technology also has made mapping the entire area possible, and he expects to complete his Valley of the Kings project by the fall.

"In the last 15 years we have seen technology develop enough so that we can use it to map such areas," he said.

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Navratilova, Lendl advance to semis in players tourney

KEY BISCAINE, Florida (AP) — Top seeds Martina Navratilova and Ivan Lendl headed a field of tournament favourites that advanced at the \$1.8 million International Players Championships.

Navratilova blitzed unseeded Nathalie Tauziat of France 6-1, 6-1 in 53 minutes to earn the first spot in the women's semifinals. Lendl dominated 16th-seeded Brad Gilbert 6-2, 6-2, 6-4 to reach the men's quarterfinals.

For ease of victory, however, they had nothing on Jimmy Connors and Steffi Graf.

Connors, the no. 6 men's seed, destroyed Johan Carlsson of Sweden 6-0, 6-1, 6-0 in 64 minutes in the afternoon. Graf, the no. 3 women's seed, beat Lisa Bonder 6-0, 6-1 in 36 minutes in the lone night singles tennis match.

One day after rain had forced the postponement of nearly the entire schedule, the International Tennis Centre was devoid of rain and major upsets Tuesday.

In women's play, second-seeded Chris Evert Lloyd and fourth-seeded Hana Mandlikova and sixth-seeded Helena Sukova, both of Czechoslovakia, moved into the quarterfinals.

In early men's play, fourth-seeded Yannick Noah of France and ninth-seeded Miloslav Mecir of Czechoslovakia claimed

fourth-round victories.

In the tightest match of the day, fifth-seeded Mats Wilander of Sweden outlasted 12th-seeded Tim Mayotte 3-6, 6-3, 7-5, 6-7 (4-7), 6-4 in a 3:51 match that started at just before 4 p.m. and ended just minutes before Graf's match, which had started three hours later.

The only upset of the day was scored by Jay Berger, of nearby plantation, who tripped 10th-seeded Andres Gomez of Ecuador, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4.

The other surprise men's quarterfinalist is Derrick Rostagno, who got through the first round in a walkover when third-seeded Boris Becker came down with a stomach ailment and had to pull out of the tournament. Since then, Rostagno, a former Stanford player from Brentwood, California, has made his own breaks, including his 6-4, 6-7, 6-3, 6-4 victory over unseeded Robert Seguso in the fourth-round Tuesday.

Lendl, who has struggled a little in the early rounds, said he mysteriously found his stroke

Monday during a workout with his coach, Tony Roche.

After her easy victory over Tauziat, Navratilova pronounced herself ready for a rematch of her dramatic U.S. Open final victory over Graf.

In the past, Navratilova normally hasn't been so excited about a match unless it has been in one of the Grand Slam events or against Lloyd.

Lloyd had to work a little harder than she expected Tuesday in a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Stephanie Rehe. She fell behind 0-3 before taking charge.

Mandlikova beat 12th-seeded Betina Bunge of West Germany 6-2, 6-4, and Sukova completed a rain-halted 5-7, 7-5, 7-5 victory over 13th-seeded Lori McNeil.

Noah shut out Johan Kriek in the fourth-set tie-breaker to win their rain-interrupted match 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, 7-6, and Mecir downed Slobodan Zibonjovic of Yugoslavia 2-6, 6-1, 6-4, 6-4 in men's fourth-round matches Tuesday.

The remaining women's quarterfinals pit Sukova against Mandlikova, and ninth-seeded Claudia Kohde-Kilsch against Lloyd.

In the men's quarterfinals, Lendl vs. Berger; Noah vs. Wilander; Mecir against second-seeded Stefan Edberg of Sweden, and Connors against Rostagno.

Schumacher agrees to quit Cologne over drug claims

COLOGNE, West Germany (R) — West German World Cup goalkeeper Harald "Toni" Schumacher has agreed to leave Cologne after a storm of controversy over claims that fellow players took dope, the club said Wednesday.

Cologne President Peter Weiland announced the departure after Schumacher, already stripped of the national captaincy because of his allegations, had a meeting with club executives.

Weiland said Schumacher would end his contract two years early on June 30 after 15 years with the first Division club. He said the decision was by mutual agreement but did not disclose the terms.

Schumacher, ranked among the world's best goalkeepers and the highest paid in West Germany, was not available for comment but West German media have speculated that he might move abroad.

The West German Football Federation (DFB) has called a meeting for next Friday, coincidentally Schumacher's 33rd birthday, to decide whether he should also be dropped from the national team.

Schumacher's career has been in crisis since the West German

magazine Der Spiegel last month began serialising excerpts from his autobiography, "Starting Whistle."

Schumacher, who admits he once experimented with pep pills, says in the book that there was a "tradition of doping" in West German soccer and cites a number of cases where he alleges players took drugs.

Among his charges are that as a young Cologne player he regularly drove half a dozen experienced team members to a local doctor to collect pep pills or receive performance-boosting injections.

Weiland has said the allegations were damaging for the team and instituted dope tests in a move the club has said was needed to protect the reputation of Cologne and the players.

Schumacher is the most-capped professional still active in West Germany, with 76 international appearances.

He joined Cologne in 1972 and helped the club to the league title in 1978 and three domestic cup victories.

He appeared on the losing side in two World Cup finals, in Spain in 1982 and in Mexico last year, when he earned his second West German Footballer of the Year title.

Lendl wants to play for U.S. in Olympics

KEY BISCAINE, Florida (AP) — Ivan Lendl, the world's no.1 tennis player, said he would like to play in the Olympics for the United States in 1992.

Lendl helped Czechoslovakia win the Davis Cup in 1980 but has lived in the United States since 1981.

After his fourth-round victory over Brad Gilbert in the International Players Championship Tuesday, Lendl said he wants to play in the Olympics but doesn't have a country to represent.

"I have nobody to play for right now so I guess I'm out of it for next year," he said, speaking of the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, South Korea.

Lendl said he is glad Olympic officials have decided to allow professional tennis players to compete in the Games.

In 1985, Lendl applied for a green card, a residency permit considered the first step toward U.S. citizenship.

He said Tuesday that if he were to compete in future Olympics, it would likely be for the U.S. asked when he could foresee that, he said: "possibly 1992."

Housewife has fastest pancake in the West

LIBERAL, Kansas (AP) — It wasn't even close this time.

For the fifth consecutive year, England won the Trans-Atlantic Shrove Pancake Race as Elizabeth Bartlett ran the 415-yard (380-metre) course in Olney, England, in 64.7 seconds.

It was the second straight victory for Mrs. Bartlett, a 30-year-old mother of two who was timed in 65 seconds flat a year ago.

In the American leg of the race at Liberal, Marcia Streiff had the best time in a field of 12, covering the same distance carrying a pancake in a frying pan in 70.1 seconds. Mrs. Streiff, who also won the Liberal leg in 1985, is a housewife with three children.

Last year, Mrs. Bartlett won by a closer margin. Her winning time was 65 seconds flat, while the American winner, Shelly Welch, finished in 66.4 seconds.

Mrs. Bartlett received a silver sash from Liberal, £200 (\$312) in cash, a reproduction oak bookcase, a set of pans, champagne and a bouquet of flowers.

Pakistan struggles at start of 4th test against India

AHMEDABAD, India (R) — Pakistan crawled to 130 for four off 86 overs on one of the slowest days in test match history at the start of the fourth cricket test against India.

The Pakistan batsman pushed and plodded for the full five-and-a-half hour day for their meagre total against a mediocre attack. The first session brought on 44 runs, the second 39 and the last 47.

The only lively moment came when Younis Ahmed on 12 at the time survived a confident appeal for a catch. A heated argument followed between the fielders and the batsmen with former Indian captain Sunil Gavaskar closely involved.

The lowest day's total remains 95 between Pakistan and Australia in Karachi in 1957 when both sides batted and 12 wickets fell. The lowest first day score when only one side batted belongs to India who made 117 for five

against Australia in Madras in 1956.

Indian spinners Maninder Singh, Shival Yadav and Gopal Sharma failed to get any turn out of the wicket. Yet the tourists were still very subdued, leading weight to newspaper claims that both sides are totally committed to one thing — avoiding defeat. The first three tests were drawn.

Sharma ended with extraordinary figures of none for 15 off 16 overs. Maninder bowled 27 overs for just 33 runs and one wicket while Yadav was positively extravagant, yielding 36 runs off his 16 overs.

Pakistan, sorely missing Javed Miandad who has a back injury, lost opener Saleem Yousuf for two with only two on the board. Rameez Raja and Rizwan-Ul-Zaman took the score to 33 before Rizwan, who made only five, was caught by Kapil Dev off Maninder.

Den Haag barred from league match for violence

AMSTERDAM (R) — Dutch First Division soccer club Den Haag, whose fans were involved in rioting during the home match against Ajax Amsterdam last weekend, were barred from visiting AZ67 Alkmaar next Sunday.

Alkmaar's mayor, Kees Roozmond, said he had decided not to allow the visit in a bid to prevent a repetition of the violence at the Zuiderpark Stadium in which 40 people were injured and 17 arrested.

The Dutch Football Association (KNVB) awarded Ajax the match, which was halted at half-time with the visitor 2-0 ahead after riot police charged brawling rival fans.

AZ67 Alkmaar chairman Arie Dighart asked the KNVB to prescribe a two-week cooling-off

period before Den Haag's next match was played.

Roozmond said the match at Alkmaar could go ahead at a later date but only on condition that a pass system had been introduced, allowing the club to refuse admission to known trouble-makers.

But KNVB spokesman Wim Jesse said if such a system were adopted it would not come into effect until next season and in the meantime the KNVB proposed that potentially violent fixtures be all-ticket.

Jesse added that one of the stands favoured by hard-core rowdies at the 22,000-capacity Zuiderpark would be closed until the end of the season and the number of standing places overall reduced by 10,000 to 5,000.

Pele for president

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Pele, the retired "king" of soccer, said in an interview published Wednesday that he would run for president if direct elections were held today.

"If there were direct elections and the people wanted (me), I would accept," Pele said in an interview with the Rio newspaper Jornal Do Brasil.

Since retiring as a player in 1977, Pele, 46, has been an actor and a roving public relations representative for a U.S. media company. But he has hinted he would be interested in a political career.

President Jose Sarney took office after an electoral college election that ended 21 years of military rule. Direct presidential elections were last held in 1960, but a constituent assembly is currently rewriting the constitution expected to reinstate direct balloting for Sarney's successor.

Olympic boss struggles to save 1988 summer games from boycott

By Stephen Weeks
Reporter

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — Olympic officials are in a race against time to settle a bitter dispute in which North Korea has demanded almost half of the Seoul summer games, set to open in 18 months.

The Lausanne-based International Olympic Committee (IOC) has spent two years negotiating with North and South Korea to head off a fourth consecutive political boycott of the games.

But even an unprecedented offer for a limited sharing of the 1988 games between Seoul and the North Korean capital, Pyongyang, has failed to resolve the problem.

"North Korea is not measuring

the value of this offer," IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch told Reuters in a recent interview. "But many other countries realise the IOC has made every effort to please the North Koreans."

The IOC awarded the games to Seoul in 1981. Much of the preparation was completed when North Korea in 1985 demanded the right to co-stage the 24th summer games.

Pyongyang, which fought a bitter war with South Korea in 1950-53, argued that the games should be shared by all the Korean people.

After overseeing three rounds of tough talks between North and South Korea, Samaranch made a "final offer" last June, giving Pyongyang all eight events in

archery and table tennis.

He also offered one elimination round in soccer and part of one cycling event, the start of the 100-kilometre road race. In return, North Korea was to drop all other claims.

But this offer of a symbolic Korean sharing, with Pyongyang getting fewer than 10 of the summer games 237 events, has yet to be accepted by North Korea.

"The North Koreans have to realise that what is important is not how many events they get. What is important is that they have been given some events, this means they are sharing the

games," Samaranch said. South Korea accepted the plan.

He called his offer "generous and historic" as well as final. It would be the first olympics shared for political reasons since the modern games started in Athens in 1896.

The only divided olympics were in 1956 when Stockholm staged the Equestrian events for the Melbourne games because of strict Australian quarantine laws.

But senior North Korean sports officials met Samaranch last month and told reporters later Pyongyang must have at least five or six more sports, citing wrestling, boxing, gymnastics, weightlifting and the whole soccer competition.

"No, no, no," Samaranch said. "Maybe we can give them part of the volleyball competition."

Maybe we can offer some more events to North Korea, but small changes. Nothing more."

He was emphatic that none of the demanded star attractions would go to Pyongyang, nor would there be a joint opening and closing ceremony, a joint name or a joint organising committee.

Until the dispute is resolved, Pyongyang's threat to call for a Communist boycott hangs over the games.

An informal survey by Reuters of East Bloc countries showed strong backing for Pyongyang's demand to co-host the games but little sympathy for another boycott.

Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Bulgaria, however, have taken the step of demanding security guarantees for their athletes. Lack of security was the official reason for the Soviet-led boycott of the Los Angeles games in 1984.

And Romania, the only East Bloc country to defy Moscow and go to Los Angeles, would face a tough decision given its good relations with Pyongyang.

Cuba indicated support for a boycott by staying away from the world judo championships in Seoul in 1985, but has since been given the 1991 Pan-American games. The IOC hopes Havana will not want to risk the threat of a retaliatory boycott.

Samaranch acknowledged that

the Soviet decision would be crucial. If Moscow supports a North Korean boycott, most East Bloc and Communist states will follow suit, he said.

But he noted Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev's drive for calmer world relations and said he doubted Moscow would stay away. Moscow lacks splitting the games but has been silent on a boycott.

"The politicians try sometimes to use and manipulate the olympics for political purposes but it's the athletes alone who lose," he said. He felt Gorbachev understood this point.

Samaranch admits that after two years of drawn-out talks and broken deadlines, the IOC is now in a race against time.

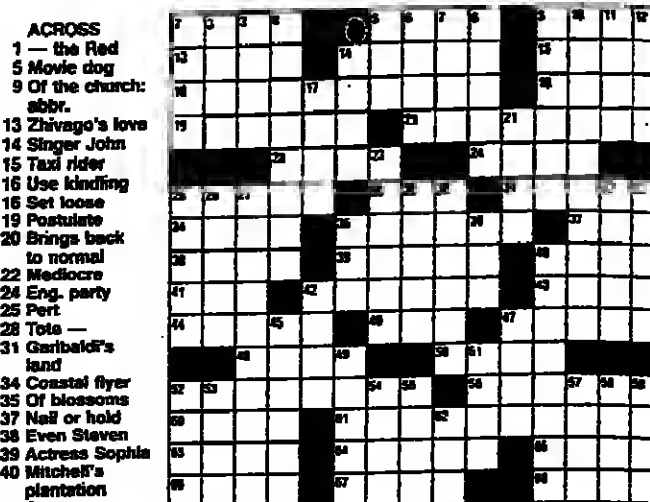
Invitations to a record 167 national olympic committees go out on Sept. 17, exactly one year before the Seoul games open, so the problem must be resolved this year.

"We will never close the door but after September it would be very difficult to arrange anything. It's a matter of too little time," he said.

Agreement on the IOC plan would be followed by more talks on organising the Pyongyang events.

Meanwhile, South Korea, flush with the success of its highly-praised staging the 1986 Asian games, has adopted a tough stand against further concessions.

THE Daily Crossword by JASON G. TRANT



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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Kiev-Istanbul match snowed out

ISTANBUL (R) — Wednesday's European Cup quarter-final soccer match between Besiktas Istanbul and Dynamo Kiev was postponed because a blizzard made the pitch unplayable. Turkish Football Federation officials said the game would now be played Thursday on the same ground at 1230 GMT if the conditions permitted.

Karpov, Sokolov draw 4th chess game

LINARES, Spain (R) — Anatoly Karpov and Andrei Sokolov of the Soviet Union agreed to a draw in the adjourned fourth game of their world chess championship eliminator without resuming play. Although Karpov, the 35-year-old former champion, held a rook and three pawns to his opponent's rook and two pawns at the adjournment Monday night, experts said he would not be able to force a win. Karpov now leads the 14-game series by 2½ to 1½.

Edberg 'drops out' of Davis Cup

STOCKHOLM (R) — Australian Open champion Stefan Edberg has dropped out of Sweden's Davis Cup tennis squad for next week's tie against Italy because he wants a week's rest, non-playing captain Hans Olsson said Wednesday. But Olsson said he was able to count on the services of former national number one Mats Wilander for the first time since last July for the world group first-round tie in Florence on March 13-15.

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Cinema **OPERA** Tel: 675573

BAND OF THE HAND

Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 677420

HEARTBURN

Performances 3:30, 6:40, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **RAGHADAN** Tel: 622198

BAND OF THE HAND

Performances 12:15, 3:00, 5:00, 9:45

Missile offer was major concession — Shevardnadze

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said Wednesday the Soviet government acted courageously in offering to negotiate a reduction of medium-range missiles in Europe without linking it to the U.S. "Star Wars" programme.

Mr. Shevardnadze, after a second day of talks with the Australian government, told a packed news conference the Soviet offer was a "major concession to the West" and the next move was up to the United States.

"The ball is in their court," he said through an interpreter, calling the Soviet move a "courageous decision."

In Washington, U.S. President Ronald Reagan said he welcomed the offer made on Saturday by Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev and said U.S. negotiators would submit a counter-proposal in the Geneva arms talks Wednesday.

After talks with Mr. Shevardnadze, Australian Foreign Minister Bill Hayden said the Soviets were holding firm to the argument that any broadening of the anti-ballistic missile treaty to allow testing of the Star Wars programme would create "an impossible obstruction" to meaningful control of strategic nuclear weapons.

Mr. Hayden said the talks with Mr. Shevardnadze were con-

ducted with "firmness bordering on robustness."

He said Mr. Shevardnadze's visit was extremely important to Australia and its hard-pressed farmers. He said Australia sold \$680 million in farm products to the Soviet Union and bought only \$20.4 million worth of goods in return.

He said Mr. Shevardnadze assured the Australian government it would not establish military bases in the South Pacific, where Moscow has just signed a fishing agreement with the tiny island state of Vanuatu.

Mr. Hayden said Mr. Shevardnadze had asked if Australia would sign a fishing agreement with Moscow, but was told the fish stocks around Australia were not plentiful enough.

Mr. Shevardnadze flew to Sydney late Wednesday for a dinner with the premier of the state of New South Wales. He leaves for Indonesia on Thursday.

However, he said Australia and the Soviet Union would carry out a scientific fishing survey of Australia's waters on an Australia-

lian ship with Australian scientists on board.

Anti-Soviet protesters Wednesday buried eggs and abuse at Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

About 300 people, Afghans opposed to the Soviet presence in Afghanistan, Jews and Eastern Europeans, demonstrated outside the building where Mr. Shevardnadze was dining with New South Wales state premier Barrie Unsworth.

Aides shielded Mr. Shevardnadze with umbrellas as the protesters buried eggs when he arrived after talks in the national capital of Canberra with Prime Minister Bob Hawke and Foreign Minister Bill Hayden.

Meanwhile the Soviet embassy in Jakarta said Wednesday a solid basis exists for better ties between Moscow and Jakarta.

Mr. Shevardnadze flies in Thursday afternoon from Sydney for a four-day visit to Indonesia. Indonesian officials said his talks are expected to focus on Kampuchea, Moscow's new interest in Asia and the Pacific, and ways of boosting trade and commercial ties.

"The Soviet people wish to have better relations and cooperate with this major non-aligned country," the Soviet embassy charge d'affaires, Vitaly Koutchouk, said in a written statement distributed Wednesday.

Thais start campaign against drug warlord

BANGKOK (R) — Thai troops have launched a campaign against Burmese drug warlord Khun Sa by driving his fighters from part of their border mountain stronghold, military officials said Wednesday.

They told Reuters Khun Sa's ethnic Shan fighters fled the Thai side of their Doi Lang base Tuesday, and said Burmese troops planned to storm the rest of the area on their side of the border.

The officials gave no details of fighting at the base in Chiang Rai province which Khun Sa's rebels have held since 1981, but they did say Thai troops kept to their side of the border.

U.K. denies 'dirty war' allegations in N. Ireland

LONDON (AP) — The government Wednesday denied allegations by two ex-army officers that security forces in Northern Ireland waged a "dirty war" of kidnappings and murder against the Irish Republican Army in the 1970s.

Roger Freeman, parliamentary undersecretary of state at the Ministry of Defence, said in a written House of Commons reply that an investigation did not find any evidence to support the allegations.

Mr. Freeman's reply was in response to a question by Conservative Party legislator Teddy Taylor about the allegations made last weekend by Fred Holroyd and Colin Wallace.

Their allegations appeared in the London Times, another London newspaper, the Guardian; a Northern Ireland paper, the Sunday News; and an interview with the two men broadcast by the British Broadcasting Corp.'s (BBC) Radio Ulster.

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U.S. picks site for SDI test

WASHINGTON (AP) — The office that oversees the "Star Wars" research programme has selected a site in New Mexico to become the test area for a new type of laser that might one day be used against nuclear missiles.

The Defence Department, in a brief statement issued recently, said the site near Orogrande, New Mexico, was one of 14 considered that lie within the boundaries of the White Sands missile range in southern New Mexico.

Construction is expected to begin soon, it said.

The Orogrande site will be used by the Pentagon's Strategic Defence Initiative Organisation to construct an experimental "free-electron laser."

It is described as a new type of laser that shows promise in producing such a high-powered beam of concentrated light that it could be fired into space and then reflected by orbiting mirrors.

The Star Wars programme, known formally as the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), is a research effort to develop lasers as well as other exotic weapons that could be placed on the ground and in space to automatically shoot down nuclear missiles fired at the United States or its allies.

Meanwhile a Soviet magazine said research indicates the Soviet Union could come up with an effective means of countering U.S. "Star Wars" programme for a fraction of the cost.

The Soviet News Agency (TASS) Tuesday quoted an article in the latest issue of the magazine "USA: Economics, Politics, Ideology," as saying Soviet research has indicated that a combination of systems could be used against the proposed U.S. plan for a space-based anti-missile system.

The research indicates "it is not necessary to destroy such a system completely," TASS quoted the magazine as saying. "It is quite enough to weaken, to disintegrate it by bringing an impact against its most vulnerable elements."

"One of the combinations analysed... estimates the cost of a system of countermeasures as accounting for only several per cent of the cost of a large-scale anti-missile system with space-based elements," it said.

They told Reuters Khun Sa's ethnic Shan fighters fled the Thai side of their Doi Lang base Tuesday, and said Burmese troops planned to storm the rest of the area on their side of the border.

The officials gave no details of fighting at the base in Chiang Rai province which Khun Sa's rebels have held since 1981, but they did say Thai troops kept to their side of the border.

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Webster backs overseas kidnapping of gunmen

WASHINGTON (R) — FBI Director William Webster has said the United States should consider kidnapping suspected terrorists abroad to return them for trial.

The head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said U.S. courts "do not particularly care" how suspected terrorists are brought to trial, whether through extradition treaties or kidnapping, after U.S. arrest warrants are obtained.

Mr. Webster's comments were the first on the subject since administration officials revealed on Feb. 20 that President Reagan had signed a secret order in January 1986 permitting the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to kidnap suspected terrorists.

U.S. officials said there have been no kidnappings under that order, but that one was considered recently to seize an unidentified airplane hijacker and bring him to the United States for trial, but the plan was scrapped as too dangerous.

Answering questions before the Senate Judiciary Committee Tuesday, Mr. Webster said the United States could encounter logistical and other problems if it went into countries like Lebanon to get suspects.

"The troubling area is: Should we kidnap a terrorist from a country in which we have a friendly relationship," he said.

"I do not think we should send a signal to our allies that we should not do that without their cooperation," he said.

"I think it has to be considered," he said, but added that he also believed allies would have to be consulted.

Republican Senator Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, who has been advocating seizures of terrorists, chided Mr. Webster for using the word kidnapping, which Specter termed "harsh." He suggested he change it to extrajudicial arrests.

Mr. Webster said several ambassadors from small countries had approached him to ask if the United States was considering kidnappings in their countries and he told them it was not, although there were "a number of opportunities" to do so.

Both Sen. Dole, considered the top challenger to Vice President George Bush for the Republican nomination, and Sen. Biden, from Delaware, a longshot for the Democratic nod, are expected to formally announce their candidacies in late spring.

He was forced to quit his job as the national security adviser last November when it was disclosed that proceeds from the Iran arms sales were secretly diverted to contra rebels in Central America.

Under the law, Reagan would have had to submit Adm. Poindexter's name to Congress this week for approval to make permanent his temporary rank as vice admiral, to which he was promoted in 1985.

Adm. Poindexter, 51, has re-

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COLUMNS 7&8

Soviet director wins Golden Bear

WEST BERLIN (R) — Soviet cinema, grappling with a legacy of stifling bureaucracy from the Brezhnev era, received a major boost when The Theme, a film long banned in Moscow, won West Berlin's coveted Golden Bear Award. Bot the triumphant director, 49-year-old Gleb Paolov, said Soviet film makers were not so much pleased about a relaxation of censorship under Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev. "We still have to work hard if we want to make this trend irreversible. We must not be afraid to take on difficult topics. There's still much to be done," he told Reuters after the award ceremony.

Beauty queen injured in crowd

PANAMA CITY, Panama (AP) — Miss Universe Barbara Palacios suffered a slight injury as hundreds of people crowded to see her during an appearance at a Panamanian town, a sponsor of her tour here said Tuesday. "She suffered a blow," Joaquin Vallarino Jr., president of the local Coca Cola Bottling Company, said. "It only was a scare, though." He said the mishap took place while a large crowd was pressing to see the beauty queen at the town of Penonomé, about 200 kilometres west of Panama City, on Monday. She had just left her car to go inside the governor's office, Vallarino said.

Prince Philip has surgery for hernia

LONDON (AP) — Prince Philip, husband of Queen Elizabeth II, has undergone surgery for a hernia. Buckingham Palace said Philip, 65, was admitted to King Edward VII Hospital for officers in London on Friday night and discharged next day, a palace statement said. A spokeswoman said the surgery "was a success." A hernia is a protrusion of all or part of an organ through a tear in the enclosing membrane, particularly the protrusion of part of the intestine through the abdominal muscles. The prince entered hospital after returning from Rome where he gave an address at the NATO defence college, the palace said.

Film suit dismissed

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal judge has dismissed a multimillion-dollar libel suit brought by three former U.S. officials against Universal Studios and the director of the movie Missing, according to a published report. "It is now clear that this is a case devoid of any evidence of actual malice," said U.S. district court Judge Milton Pollack in dismissing the libel claims against Director Constantin Costa-Gavras and Universal Studios, New York Newsday has reported. The three former officials, who were not named in the film, claimed they had been injured by the movie's suggestion of U.S. complicity in the disappearance of American writer Charles Horman from his Santiago home during the 1973 military coup in Chile, Newsday said.

Scissors removed from Turk's stomach

ANKARA (Petra) — A 12-centimetre long pair of scissors were removed from the stomach of a Turk in a surgical operation at one of the government hospitals in east Turkey. The man Jawak Konkar had undergone an operation in the stomach one and a half years ago but continued to suffer from pain in the stomach since then. His doctors had believed that the pains were due to side effects from the previous operation but the X-ray photos taken on his stomach showed the presence of the scissors which required another operation for its removal.

Gorbachev: Pace of reform was unthinkable a year ago

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has said his reforms have changed the atmosphere of Soviet society, but so far have done little to improve the lives of citizens.

Mr. Gorbachev, who became the Soviet Communist Party general secretary in March, 1985, assessed his two years in power during a meeting with Argentine Communist Party leader Athos Fava.

The pace of reform constitutes a revolution that was unthinkable as recently as a year ago, but much remains to be done, he said.

"Over these two years we have yet done little to meet current needs of the Soviet people," Mr. Gorbachev said. He added however that "the atmosphere in society has changed radically, a sense of human dignity has increased sharply, civic potential has awakened."

"This is, indeed, a revolution, but the point of the matter is not power, it is the effective use of this very power of workers and peasants for socialism's transition to a new stage," Mr. Gorbachev said in remarks carried by the Soviet News Agency TASS.

"What happens now, what we approached in connection with the January plenary meeting of the Central Committee, would have been simply unthinkable a year ago. Were we asked then if what becomes customary now is possible at all, we would have either given a negative or evasive answer," Mr. Gorbachev said.

But Mr. Gorbachev clearly is frustrated with resistance to change. The January Central Committee meeting failed to endorse his proposals on a party conference and party elections.

He said Soviet society needs more openness to ensure that the reforms will continue.

"We have sworn to criticism, self-criticism, openness, and we shall continue assessing everything strictly, even stringently, objectively facing the truth," he said.

TASS quoted Mr. Fava as raising the concern that Mr. Gorbachev's reforms might go the way of Nikita Khrushchev's liberalisation campaign that began with his denunciation of Stalin in 1956. Mr. Khrushchev's policies were discredited and he was ousted in 1964.

But TASS said Mr. Fava expressed confidence that "this time Communists will not make mistakes."

Mr. Gorbachev responded that "it is very important for us to know how we look to friends, for who if not them will tell us all the truth, tell it selflessly and with a sincere wish of success?"

Accompanying Mr. Ortega on the visit was